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Tension mounts in build-up to poll

Second US carrier sails for Taiwan

By JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

PRESIDENT CLINTON has ordered a second aircraft carrier to join an American naval task force to protect Taiwan while China conducts missile tests and military manoeuvres.

The USS *Nimitz* is to leave the Gulf with six or seven other ships this week to link up with the USS *Independence* and four more ships off Taiwan before the island holds presidential elections on Saturday week. They will establish one of the largest American forces in the region since the Vietnam war, with up to 140 aircraft and 200 Tomahawk cruise missiles.

Announcing the move, William Perry, the American Defence Secretary, said that Washington viewed the tension in the area with very great concern. He accused China of trying to intimidate Taiwan, and said that the task force had been despatched as a precautionary measure, although he did not expect a Chinese attack.

The move was welcomed by Taiwan, but condemned by China, whose Foreign Minister accused the Americans of escalating tensions. "It is ridiculous for some people to call for interference in the issue and even more ridiculous for them to call for the protection of Taiwan," Qian Qichen told

a news conference yesterday. "These people have forgotten that Taiwan is a part of China and not a protectorate of the United States."

China, which regards Taiwan as a renegade province, has been holding extensive missile tests and military exercises in the Taiwan Straits in an attempt to reduce electoral support for President Lee Teng-hui, who is expected to win the island's first direct presidential election. China fears that a democratically elected leader might be tempted to declare independence.

Since the manoeuvres began last Friday, at least four Scud-like M9 missiles have been fired into the sea near the two main ports, and China has said that it will start naval and air exercises with live ammunition off the island's southwestern coast, 35 miles from the Taiwan-held Pescadore Islands, today.

Military analysts say that the new exercise is similar to one China held for 11 days in August, when aircraft and ships test-fired short-range air-to-air and ship-to-air missiles and live artillery shells. Observers believe the chances of a full-scale attack are small and President Lee sought to calm his people, saying: "We do not want to have confronta-

tion or war with communist China. They are testing if the 21 million in Taiwan will be frightened."

Nevertheless, he added that the Government had made "complete preparations". The Economics Ministry had prepared plans to ensure supplies to key industries and the armed forces in the event of a conflict. Bomb shelters for up to four million people were being reopened, and soldiers were digging trenches and manning anti-aircraft guns on the outlying island of Quemoy.

In Taipei, the financial markets continued to suffer as investors took flight. The markets have fallen repeatedly since last summer and yesterday the main stock index fell by 2 per cent. Banks reported heavy demand for dollars and the biggest institutions have had to bring in emergency supplies of American cash. One trader said his bank had received a shipment of \$10 million yesterday and that it had gone in hours.

Taiwan's foreign currency reserves, the world's biggest after Japan, have fallen from \$100.4 billion last June to \$87 billion.

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Radio 1 chief brings back the Beatles

ONE week after excluding The Beatles' latest single *Real Love* from its playlist, Radio 1 has relented.

The station's Golden Hour this morning will feature classic Beatles recordings and tracks by artists inspired by the band. *Real Love* will end the programme.

Matthew Bannister, the station's controller, said he hoped this would show that he had nothing against the band.

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Tories rattled by Goldsmith factor

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND NICHOLAS WOOD

JOHN MAJOR was last night facing the prospect of his Commons majority falling to one within a month as the Government was hit by the leaking of an internal document warning that Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party could cost him the next election.

Tory party sources disclosed that the Staffordshire South-east by-election, in which they are highly vulnerable to a swing to Labour, would be held on April 11. But the fragility of the Government's parliamentary position is set to be exposed before then with Labour likely to force a vote on its approach to the imminent conference on the future of Europe, which will be outlined in a White Paper today.

The 21-page document, *A Partnership of Nations*, will attempt to placate the Eurosceptics by underlining the Government's readiness to renegotiate parts of the Treaty of Rome which it believes to be

working badly, notably the common fisheries policy. It will also put forward ideas for modest reform of the European Court of Justice, as well as as setting out Britain's opposition to further powers for the European Parliament and the Commission, and to any extra dilution of the national veto.

Ministers, fearing a rebellion by Tory Eurosceptics, are trying to avoid embarrassment by staging a White Paper debate on Thursday week on a technical motion that would not need to be put to a vote.

But Labour is expected to exploit the Government's discomfort by turning up in force and trying to score a heavy victory only a week before Mr Major goes to Turin for the opening of the Inter-Governmental Conference.

A senior Labour source said last night: "The Government Continued on page 2, col 4

Peter Riddell, page 8

Belgravia lawyer 'threw client's wife into street'

By MICHAEL HORNSWELL

THE WIFE of a wealthy property developer was rugby-tackled and pinned to the floor at her husband's solicitors by the senior partner, a court was told yesterday.

The attack came after a dispute over the deeds of the Elm London house Laura Harold, 32, shared with her husband and two young children in Belgravia. She had earlier been thrown out of the building backwards down a flight of stone steps.

She was left traumatised and bruised all over her body. Mrs Harold — 5ft 2in and weighing 74 stone — claimed the man who made the "violent and unprovoked" attack was Allen Chubb. He is 6ft 3in and weighs 14½ stone.

She told a jury at Inner London Crown Court: "It was like one of those Wild West films. I thought he was going to break my back when he threw me into the street."

She added that later, when she went back to get her fur coat, Mr Chubb told her the police had been called and pinned her "body to body" to the floor, having tackled her round the waist.

Mr Chubb, 53, has pleaded not guilty to assault occasioning actual bodily harm, and false imprisonment, in a private prosecution brought by Mrs Harold.

He says he was exercising reasonable force to eject Mrs Harold last year, having told her to leave the offices of Child & Child in Motcomb Street, Belgravia, last year.

The court was told that on April 28, Mrs Harold, a "gentle-natured housewife of excellent character", was sent to the solicitors by her husband, the property-developer and industrialist Michael Harold who owns Harold Supplies PLC and Help Spirit Ltd. She was to pick up the documents including deeds on their unmortgaged house in Chester Square, Belgravia, and pay a £200 bill.

The former beauty therapist, who married in 1990, said she had not known of a dispute between her husband and the firm.

Jonathan Goldberg, QC, for the prosecution, said Mr Chubb had thrown Mrs Harold into the street.



Chubb: Said he could use reasonable force

Markets ease after plunge

London suffered a day of volatile share trading in the wake of Friday's plunge on Wall Street. But after falling by 81.2 points at one point the FT-SE 100 index closed just 35.8 points down at 3674.5.

The crash that had been forecast was averted because of drastic measures by traders in London. Page 25

Rogue satellite to crash land today

The rogue Chinese satellite, travelling at 17,500 miles an hour, is forecast to come to earth sometime before noon today. The satellite is predicted by the RAF to crash land in the south Atlantic or possibly the Indian Ocean. But a crash landing in Britain has not been ruled out.

Smoker fined

A smoker who lit up three times during a transatlantic flight in defiance of airline rules and the orders of the captain and crew has been fined £400 for endangering an aircraft. Page 3

Tesco adds fuel to pump war

By SARAH BAGNALL

TESCO added fuel to Britain's pump price war yesterday by promising to make its petrol the cheapest within three miles of any of its forecourts.

It further increased pressure on its rivals by extending its Clubcard loyalty scheme to petrol. This will enable motorists to receive vouchers for supermarket goods for points gathered on the forecourts.

The price pledge was seen as a threat to thousands of small independent petrol retailers. Supermarkets already have more than 20 per cent of the annual £15 billion retail petrol market through their approximately 700 filling stations. This compares with 5 a mere per cent in 1989.

In January, Esso and Shell, with more than 2,000 outlets each, reduced prices in an attempt to regain the market share they had lost to the supermarkets adding to the squeeze on the 14,000 independent outlets.

Relate head resigns over criticism of Princess

By DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE president of Relate, the marriage guidance council, resigned yesterday in protest at remarks by her two senior executives over the breakup of the marriage of the Prince and Princess of Wales.

Joanna Foster, former head of the Equal Opportunities Commission, has left the counselling organisation after public comments on the private life of the Princess, the organisation's patron for seven years.

A copy of Mrs Foster's resignation letter, which criticises Ed Straw, Relate's chairman, and Sarah Bowler, the new chief executive, has been sent to the Princess's staff and the 130 Relate centres around the country.

Mrs Foster's resignation was prompted by a front-page article in *The Sunday Times* two weeks ago reporting that senior representatives of Relate had echoed the disappointment at Buckingham and St James's Palaces that the Princess had decided to leak details of her divorce negotiations.

It was reported that Relate would not be inviting the patron to its functions over the coming months "amid concern that the handling of her divorce is tarnishing the charity's image", and quotations were attributed to both Sarah Bowler and Ed Straw which clearly implied criticism of the patron's handling of her divorce. Mrs Foster wrote: "These actions fly in the face of

Relate's long-standing policy of not commenting publicly about the patron. . . . They constitute poor judgment, a betrayal of trust and ill-considered management of the press."

Mrs Foster told *The Times* yesterday: "Relate shouldn't be involved in commenting publicly on the patron's relationships or anybody else's. That is absolutely sacrosanct in counselling."

Mrs Foster, 56, a mother of two, was brought in as president of Relate, a voluntary unpaid role, three years ago by David French, the organisation's highly-respected director, who left last year to work as a consultant.

Relate's budget of about £11 million comes from fees, the Government, local authorities, health authorities and private sponsorship. It helps about 60,000 couples a year.

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Foster: colleagues' actions 'fly in the face of policy'



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Enter stage left: Glenda Jackson followed by two fat soldiers

One of the drawbacks of watching Glenda Jackson making love to two fat soldiers in a wooden box during the small hours of Monday morning, is that it becomes hard to watch her with the requisite degree of seriousness, that same afternoon, asking about the suitability of the railway track on the Northern Line. I kept thinking about the soldiers.

Ken Russell's *Salome's Last Dance* was screened on Channel 4 on Sunday, around midnight. "As Oscar Wilde lounges in a brothel," explained the listings, "the proprietor stages a private production of his *Tragedy of Salome*." One settled down for a couple of hours' educational viewing.

It was a dreadful film. But, just as I fumbled for the off button on the monitor, a voice we all recognise emerged from the TV set. It was Glenda Jackson. Everyone seemed to be calling her Herodias. Ms Jackson was dressed in remarkable costume: a cruel black gown with an exotic headpiece. Her face was plastered white. The voice, however, was unmistakably that of the Member for Hampstead. The Labour MP was urging her daughter to demand the severed head of John the Baptist, on a platter.

This was in no way surprising. "New" Labour are an unsquamous bunch. A Shadow Cabinet accustomed to lashing out at beggars and squeegee-merchants is surely capable of demanding the severed heads of religious pests.

I assumed that by this request Ms Jackson was angling for a job, the only question being whether her idea was sufficiently right-wing to engage Tony Blair's attention. Her costume could be attributed to those image consultants whom Labour MPs now regularly consult, to maximise TV impact. The headpiece was marginally less surprising than Austin Mitchell's ties.

Then came the naked soldiers in the casket. At first there was only one. We did not actually see his lovemaking with the Hampstead MP, but the banging and bounding knocked a particularly fat soldier, sitting on the box largely undressed and drinking wine off it. The box lid then opened, and Ms Jackson's arm emerged, beckoning him to get into the box with her and the other soldier. He did, the lid closed, and more banging ensued. Some time later, Ms Jackson crawled out.

This sort of thing may pose problems for new Labour, so close to an election. Mr Blair encourages a "squeaky-clean" image for his party, and leads by example. In a new book, his sidekick, Peter Mandelson (Hartlepool) says that for the Blair "swimming" after Church on Sundays, is a regular event.

For Ms Jackson, Sunday seemed to feature events of a different kind. Our anxiety deepened when, just before the end of the film, the police arrived and Jackson was arrested, along with Oscar Wilde and the pimp. I retired to bed puzzled and concerned.



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Prince fears for youths who have no hope of jobs

By Alan Hamilton

THE Prince of Wales spoke yesterday of his concern for the 100,000 young people who had virtually disappeared from mainstream society, without work, school qualifications or hope.

Addressing a conference in Manchester to launch a more aggressive image for his charities, the Prince said that unemployment, drug abuse, homelessness and academic under-achievement meant that hundreds of thousands of youngsters could not play their full part as citizens. He expressed his fears about the social impact of 345,000 people aged between 16 and 25 being resigned to unemployment.

The Prince told 500 staff and volunteers of the Prince's Trust, now reorganised as a single entity and with a turnover of £30 million a year: "We will never realise our full economic potential in this country until standards of education and training match those of our competitors." He

added: "We will never regenerate our inner cities until young people care about their communities and have a greater sense of citizenship." Labour seized on his words last night, claiming that he had echoed everything the party had been saying. "Prince Charles rightly identified both the need to raise standards in our schools and the importance of tackling youth unemployment as essential to social cohesion and our national economic wellbeing," David Blunkett, the Shadow Education and Employment Secretary, said.

Figures showing that 40 per cent of children are underperforming at school have prompted the Prince's Trust to apply for a £125 million grant from the Millennium Commission to establish a chain of evening study centres where young people who suffer from a noisy or disrupted home life can go to complete their homework in peace.

The Prince told his audi-



The Prince of Wales in Salford yesterday. In his speech he called for improved education and training

ence: "As we approach the celebrations to mark the year 2000, people throughout the country are planning millennium initiatives covering many spheres of our national life. But just as important as all of these at this point in our history is what we do for our most vital resource of all, the young people who will actually be living in the next millennium." He said that a recent meeting in Tetbury, Gloucestershire, near his home at Highgrove, had illustrated the concern: about 300 people

turned up to discuss drug and alcohol problems among the town's youths.

The Prince's Trust, which helps about 50,000 young people a year, will have a new logo and new headquarters, in a low-rent Nash building overlooking Regent's Park. It hopes for a much higher profile among a public that has been confused by the different arms and names of the Prince's charitable effort among the young. "Under the single banner of the Prince's Trust we will now, I believe, be

seen much more clearly as this country's leading organisation for enabling disadvantaged young people to reach their potential," he said.

He added that Jacques Chirac, the French President, who will pay a state visit to Britain in May, had asked to see how young French people might benefit from the sort of work the trust had done on Glasgow housing estates.

Last year the old Prince's Trust, the core charity, helped 7,000 young people with loans and grants for personal projects. Its sister body, the Prince's Youth Business Trust, and its Scottish counterpart, set up more than 4,000 businesses for young entrepreneurs. In the past ten years it has set up more than 25,000 businesses, the top 100 of which employ 2,000 people and have a combined annual turnover of £5 million.

Oxford college backs funding by German

Balliol College, Oxford, gave its full support to the funding of a university chair by the grandson of a convicted Nazi war criminal, and decided to take no further action despite cries of outrage from Jewish groups and some academics who felt their college was being tainted by blood money. Dr Gert-Rudolph Flick, who donated £350,000 to found the Oxford University chair of the History of European Thought, is the grandson of Friedrich Flick, a leading industrialist of the Nazi era in Germany and an adviser to Hitler, who was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment at the Nuremberg trials for employing 48,000 Jewish slave labourers, most of whom died in captivity.

Last November the university's ethics committee declared it could find no grounds for associating Dr Flick with events in the 1930s. However, the university has changed the post's name from the Flick chair to the Gert-Rudolph Flick chair.

Train inquiry ordered

Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, ordered an independent inquiry into the Stafford train crash yesterday as investigations at the scene were focused on a broken axle found in the wreckage. The Railway Inspectorate's investigation, the first of its kind since the fatal InterCity train fire at Maidenhead last September, will run parallel to an internal inquiry by Railtrack and the train operators involved in the accident. The results of the inspectorate's inquiry are to be made public. One person died and 22 were injured when a Royal Mail train hit a derailed freight train late on Friday night.

Legal aid fees to rise

Legal aid fees are to rise by 1.5 to 3 per cent, the Lord Chancellor announced. Solicitors giving rota advice to suspects in police stations will receive an extra rise of 3.5 per cent. Barristers will receive a rise of 1.5 per cent for both civil and criminal legal aid work. The Law Society condemned the increases, which come at a time when the £1.6 billion legal aid budget is expected to be underspent this year by £70 million.

Part-time staff appeal

Some 60,000 part-time workers lodged a test appeal yesterday for backdated benefits from their company pension schemes. Two dozen part-timers are bringing the appeal at the Employment Appeals Tribunal after an industrial tribunal in Birmingham ruled they could not claim the benefits. In September the European Court of Justice ruled that employers who bar part-timers from pension schemes could be guilty of sex discrimination.

Golfers swing concession

Cut-price golf on Scotland's most famous golf course is to be maintained for the people of St Andrews. Legislation designed to protect public access to the Royal and Ancient Golf Club was due to lapse in three years' time under the provisions of the Local Government (Scotland) Act. But yesterday the Scottish Secretary announced he was intervening to ensure the people's rights were maintained, including the £90-a-year fee for locals.

Bank ruling sets precedent for shop closures

By Patricia Tehan
Banking Correspondent

A SCOTTISH court has prevented the Royal Bank of Scotland from closing a branch in Glasgow in a ruling that could have widespread consequences for any company planning to shut a retail outlet before the expiry of a lease.

The ruling yesterday by three judges at the Court of Session in Edinburgh sets a legal precedent in Scotland. It is likely to be followed by English courts.

The "keep open order" overrules a

decision by Lord Coulsfield last August, when he ordered that RBS could not be forced to retain its branch in Glasgow's Sauchiehall Centre, owned by Retail Parks Investments, even though to close it was in breach of its lease.

The bank now has three months to consider taking the case to the House of Lords. A spokesman said: "We are disappointed at the decision of the appeal judges but have not yet had an opportunity to consider the full judgment and cannot comment further at this stage."

The 25-year lease for the premises to be used as a bank runs until August 2002 at a rent of £129,000 a year. Under its terms, RBS had to keep open and trade until then.

However, in the past it has proved difficult to enforce such "stay open" clauses, which are common in retail leases and the only recourse for landlords was to seek damages.

Ewan Easton, head of litigation at MacKay Murray & Spens, the solicitor advising Retail Parks Investments, said: "The English courts will accept and follow this reasoning but it will always depend on the language of the lease." He said yesterday's

ruling means that a bank or retailer will have to reach an agreement with the landlord before closing down a branch or shop. "They cannot tear up the obligation [to stay open and trade] overnight."

In March last year RBS decided that, although it would still pay the rent on the premises, it wanted to move to a new branch about 500 yards away in Sauchiehall Street. It planned to leave two cash machines at the Sauchiehall Centre.

But Retail Parks Investments went to court to force the bank to keep open the branch, arguing that the success

of the shopping centre was dependent on having a bank there. After the initial defeat, it returned to court to challenge the decision before Lord McCluskey, who sat with Lord Cullen and Lord Kirkwood.

The bank argued that the terms of the order sought from the court were not precise enough to notify them of what was required of it between now and 2002.

But Lord McCluskey said the bank had used and occupied the premises as bank offices for nearly 20 years without any apparent difficulty or misunderstanding.

No charges over Pulp friction

By Carol Midgley

JARVIS COCKER, the lead singer with the pop group Pulp, will not be prosecuted over his outburst during Michael Jackson's performance at the Brit Awards, it emerged last night.

Cocker, 32, had been accused of assaulting three children who were knocked aside as he leapt on stage to protest at Jackson's "pretentiousness". After studying video footage of the incident last month, police decided there was no evidence to justify criminal proceedings.

Cocker, who vigorously protested his innocence, is now considering whether to sue over remarks made in a statement on behalf of Jackson by his record company Epic. A spokesman for Epic's record company Island said the matter was the subject of "mature consideration".

At a press conference yesterday the singer, sporting a pink shirt, purple tie and his trademark NHS-style spectacles, said: "It was not very nice to have people thinking that you're the type of person who



Cocker at his press conference in London yesterday

goes around punching children. It is one of the worst things you can be accused of."

Drinking white wine and smoking a cigarette, he confirmed that he was deciding whether to sue Jackson for libel. "I have got no personal vendetta against Michael Jackson," he said. "I just thought it was in very bad taste."

Three children, aged seven, 11 and 12 who were on stage with Jackson as he performed *Earth Song*, complained of being hurt during a fracas which started when Cocker ran on stage.

The singer, who has built a reputation for hard living and prides himself on his bad-boy image, said at the time: "My actions were a form of protest at the way Michael Jackson sees himself as some Christlike figure with the power of healing. The music industry allows him to indulge his fantasies. I just couldn't go along with it any more."

Cocker was arrested and questioned by police in Kensington on the night of the Brit

Awards at Earls Court, west London. He was held in a cell for three hours and bailed to appear back there yesterday.

As he arrived at Kensington police station to find out whether he was to be charged, screaming Michael Jackson fans hurled eggs, flour and milk at him and shouted obscenities. One 16-year-old girl was arrested for using threatening behaviour.

Cocker, from Sheffield, joked that the ingredients could have been used to make a Yorkshire pudding. Asked if he had a message for Michael Jackson, he said: "I don't know Michael Jackson. I wish him well and I hope he sorts his problems out. It would be good for him to get a bit of reality in his life."

"I think anybody who sets themselves up as a Christlike figure is a bit dodgy. I'm not a hero. It was something I did on the spur of the moment. It's strange when you do something on the spur of the moment and have to live with it for the rest of your life."

He said the decision not to prosecute was a "victory for common sense".

Wife 'attack'

Continued from page 1

Harold had been a client of Child & Child for several years. When Mrs Harold arrived, she learnt the solicitors were claiming that a bill for £3,500 was unpaid. She was told by Mr Chubb that the firm was exercising a lien over the deeds. He said she was a trespasser, and there followed a violent assault when she refused to leave without them.

Mr Goldberg said: "This was not an East End pub at closing time when the landlord is having difficulty evicting a drunken customer. Is this a way for a senior partner in a respectable firm to behave towards a client's wife? This was no way to treat a lady."

Mrs Harold said Mr Chubb was "rude and brusque", then ordered her to leave.

After she refused to go, she said he pulled her off her feet and dragged her head first on her back across the floor, gripping her under the armpits.

"The next thing I remember I am on the threshold with my back to the outside street. He just threw me with all the force he could summon out of the door... I hit the ground on my back and he came down on top of me."

Mrs Harold said the deeds were returned within days. The solicitors sued over the £3,500 bill, and lost the case. The trial continues today.

Tory marginals rattled by Goldsmith

Continued from page 1

is trying to run away from this. But we see no reason to help them. What will Europe make of a government that does not even try to win on its European policy?"

Mr Major is under growing pressure to announce shortly that the Tories are committed to a referendum on a single currency. But the fears of Tory MPs about the impact of Sir James's party in the general election was further fuelled yesterday by the disclosure of a document prepared for the party's Euro MPs. It stated that the Referendum Party, which wants a plebiscite on Britain's future in the European Union, could win

enough backing among former Tory-supporting voters to turn the balance in up to 25 marginal seats.

Although senior Tory sources dismissed the importance of the document, its findings did not surprise Tory MPs. The document, written by Alastair Graham, a researcher, stated: "At the 1992 General Election 14 Conservative MPs were elected with majorities of less than 1.3 per cent. The Referendum Party could have made the difference between a Conservative government and a hung Parliament. Although private opinion polls commissioned by the Referendum Party suggest it may attract as much as 6 per cent, it is realistic enough to believe

that this is more likely to be 1-2 per cent at best. But even this level of support in 25 target marginals could make the difference between the Conservative Party winning or losing the election."

Sir James took full-page advertisements in four national newspapers yesterday, making clear that the referendum idea floated by Mr Major on the single issue of a single currency, and only after the Cabinet had decided Britain should join, would be an "empty gesture". He said a referendum should allow for a full debate "on the sort of Europe of which Britain wants to be part", and would need to be held prior to, or at the same time as, the next general election.

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ADMIRAL

Nervous flyer who defied smoking ban is fined £400

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

A SMOKER who lit up during a transatlantic flight in defiance of airline rules was fined £400 yesterday for endangering an aircraft.

Joanne Norris, 33, ignored the orders of the captain and crew, saying that she needed to smoke to calm her nerves. She claimed she had not known that smoking would be banned on the Virgin flight.

She complained angrily after first being told to put out her cigarette on the New York to Heathrow flight, then set off a smoke detector after lighting up at least twice in the lavatory.

Norris, a mother of two, admitted contravening the Air Navigation Order 1989 by smoking, failing to obey the lawful commands of the captain and endangering the aircraft. She was fined £400 at Uxbridge Magistrates' Court, west London, and ordered to pay £40 costs, in what is believed to be one of the first prosecutions of its kind.

Jill McNamara, for the prosecution, told the court that the problems began while the aircraft was at New York's J. F. Kennedy airport. "She lit a cigarette while being told not to smoke. Then while in flight she left her seat and went to the lavatory to smoke and again one and a half hours



Norris set off smoke detector in lavatory

into the flight she went to the toilet and passengers said she had been smoking."

Norris, who works for a taxi company, ignored the captain when he went down from the flight deck and told her to stop. Disobeying a captain's order during a flight is an automatic offence. Police at Heathrow were alerted and when the aircraft landed she became violent and was arrested, the court was told.

Miss McNamara said that there had been fears for the safety of the aircraft because Norris could have created a fire risk by hiding the cigarettes after stubbing them out. Norris, of Radwinter, Essex, told the magistrates: "I am such a nervous passenger and I couldn't endure the flight without a cigarette. Had I

known I couldn't smoke, I wouldn't have taken that flight. You can smoke on other airlines and on some of Virgin's other routes, to Tokyo for example."

Fining her, Peter Richardson, the chairman of the bench, said: "We do consider this as a very serious offence."

Outside the court Norris expressed anger at her treatment. "The fine was much higher than I thought it would be. If it's such a serious offence, why do they allow smoking on other flights?" she said.

Airlines are under an international obligation to ban smoking on all flights within three years. All Virgin transatlantic services and flights to Hong Kong are non-smoking. It is permitted on services to Tokyo and Athens "purely because of customer demand".

British Airways has banned smoking on all domestic services, all European flights of less than 90 minutes, and on routes to Australia, New Zealand and Canada. About half of its services to New York are non-smoking, as are transatlantic routes that have only one service a day.

"We have not had to prosecute anyone for smoking on board because the pressure from other passengers, or a quiet word from the crew or the captain, usually does the trick," BA said.

Shame parents into giving up

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

CHILDREN should use emotional blackmail to persuade their parents to give up smoking, according to the organisers of tomorrow's No Smoking Day. They say that the high moral standards adopted by youngsters against tobacco abuse could be the answer to cutting the number of adult smokers.

In an attempt to shame people into a healthier lifestyle, the Health Education Authority is encouraging children to tell their parents to take a deep breath over a full ashtray. Then they should point out that they

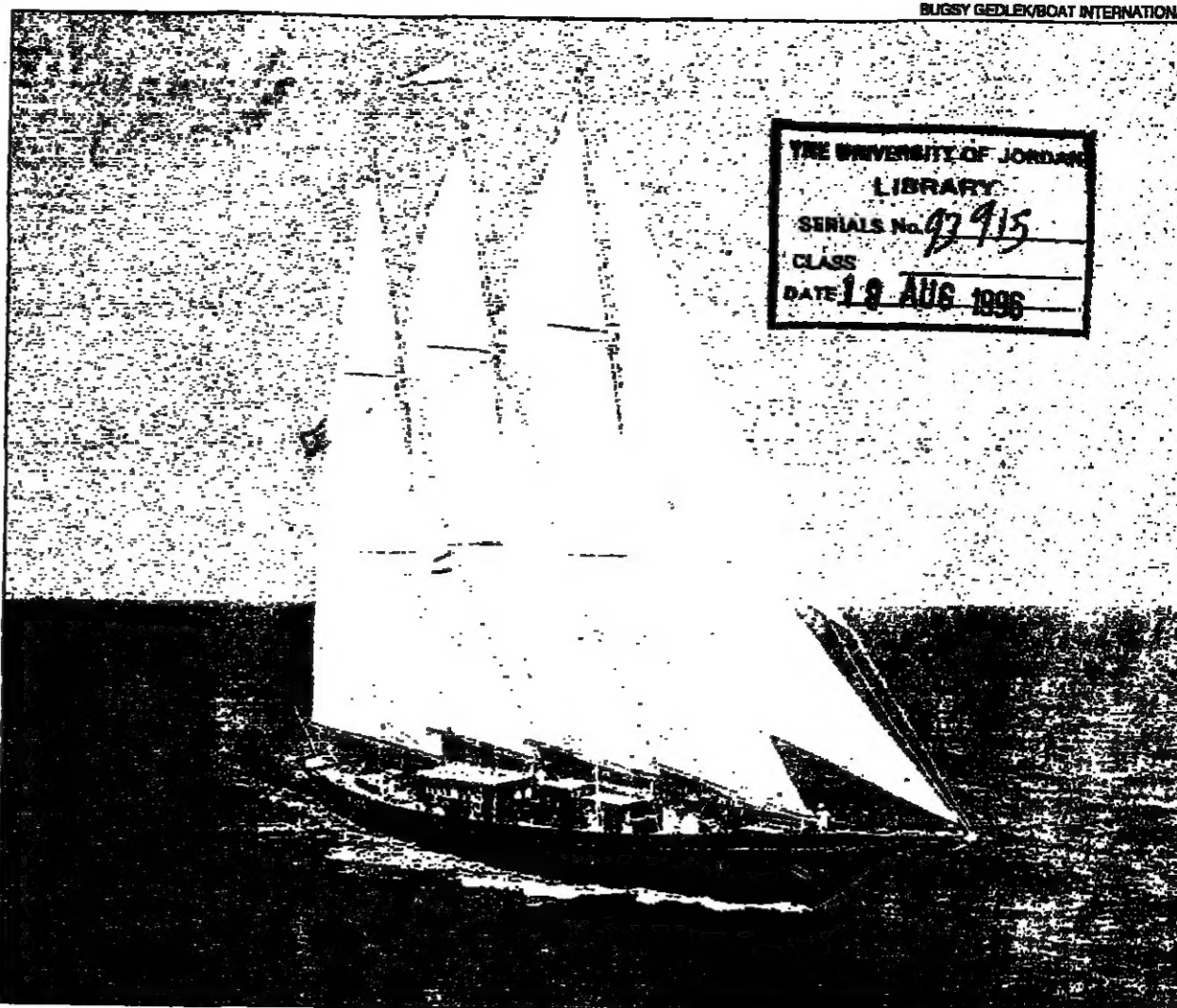
could have taken the family to the cinema for the price of a few packets of cigarettes; that they could afford to take them on a £1,000 holiday if they gave up.

Health campaigners are impressed by new statistics showing that two-thirds of children try to stop their parents smoking and that smokers with families are more likely to want to quit.

The information sheet, *How to help your parents give up smoking*, distributed by the National Health Service, advises: "When they are ready to give up, make sure that their

last cigarette is a horrible memory." Children are encouraged to make a box for their parents to save the money they would have spent on cigarettes. "If they smoked 20 a day they will have saved £1,000 by the end of the year! Decide what you could all do with the money they save, a day out or even a holiday."

A Health Education Authority survey shows 67 per cent of 11 to 15-year-olds have tried to get their parents to give up smoking in the past six months. Even among teenagers who smoke, 36 per cent try to stop their parents.



The Creole in full sail. She was rotting until the Italian fashion magnate spent his fortune on her restoration

£12m price on yacht that sank Gucci

BY ROBIN YOUNG

THE floating folly of a murdered fashion magnate is for sale at an asking price of nearly £12 million.

The *Creole*, built in 1927, is the largest and most luxurious private sailing vessel in the world, thanks to the fortune lavished upon her by Maurizio Gucci, the heir to a fashion fortune who was killed outside his office in Milan a year ago.

Gucci, who was 46 when he died, had spent millions of pounds on the 214ft yacht, which he found virtually a hulk, rotting away after serving as a floating adventure playground for young drug addicts in Denmark.

He spent ten years restoring her, but despite his wealth was unable to keep pace with the bills. At one point he was sentenced to a year's imprisonment for smuggling money abroad for the refit, but did a deal with the Italian tax authorities and returned to the chairmanship of Gucci.

Gucci was in trouble again



Maurizio Gucci and the yacht's main saloon, which is opulently furnished



over outstanding bills in San Diego during the 1992 America's Cup. His crew often went unpaid, and the yacht and her owner sailed from one financial scrape to another.

In September 1993, when Maurizio finally sold his share of the Gucci business for £103 million, the first person he told was *Creole*'s skipper. The yacht was still draining his fortune at an alarming rate and half the

proceeds of the share sale were said to have been immediately swallowed by debts. But Gucci nonetheless decided to strip out and refit the *Creole*'s interior, which had been designed by his wife Patricia, with whom he was now involved in a ferocious divorce battle.

Gucci owed large sums of money when he died, and the most popular theory was that his murder by a hitman who

shot him four times from close range, was ordered because he had failed to honour a debt to an Italian-American syndicate with links to the Mafia.

The 699-ton yacht is being marketed by Nick Baker of Camper and Nicholson, the London brokers, who said yesterday: "*Creole* is quite spectacular. She is the largest surviving classic sailing yacht. There is nothing like her anywhere in the world."

Stubborn Carling continued to meet Princess

BY PETER FOSTER

WILL CARLING, who captained the England rugby team for the last time against Ireland on Saturday, said yesterday that he continued seeing the Princess of Wales out of sheer stubbornness.

Carling and his wife Julia separated last year after 15 months of marriage when he continued to meet the Princess despite assuring his wife that he would not. Carling, 30, said he had been determined not to allow the whims of the tabloid press to rule his life: "Part of me thought, 'Why can't I just be her friend?'"

"Everyone tells you not to do something because the media will take it in a certain way. I thought, 'Why in hell should I be told how to live my life?'"

Mrs Carling yesterday appeared to rule out any chance of a reconciliation, describing the break-up of her marriage as "sick-making" in the April issue of *Tatler*. "It is the worst nightmare for one's marriage to crumble so publicly. But I think, strangely, it has done me a lot of good."

"All right, so I trust very few people now, but it has made me a heck of a lot stronger. And at least I know I don't want to go back to that situation, the marriage," she says.

Mrs Carling said of her former husband's friendship with the Princess of Wales: "The whole thing came like a bolt from the blue. We were bumbling on very happily. I was just getting to grips with my new job in television and then the bomb hits."

"I made sure I looked fine as soon as I opened my front door, even if it was just putting out the milk bottles. Of course, as soon as I went back inside and shut the curtains, I'd have a good cry."

Carling, asked whether there had been any romance with the Princess, said: "I'm not saying anything. She's a good friend. Well, she was."

However, Carling admitted yesterday in the interview with the *Radio Times* that he had been naive and said of his meetings with the Princess last year: "It wasn't very clever."

Thief finds way to open cashpoint

BY STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A NATIONWIDE security review was launched by banks yesterday after thieves managed to take £87,000 from two cash machines.

Cash dispensers are protected against attack by thick steel and glass, but the two men used a few simple tools to prise open the machines in the foyer of a Lloyds Bank in Peterborough early on Saturday.

Lloyds security staff were alerted at their London headquarters when an alarm went off at 5.45am on Saturday. Police were called within two minutes but by the time they got to the bank the thieves had gone. The empty cash cartridges were found in a rubbish bin at the Watford Gap service station on the M1.

Yesterday Lloyds officials sent details of the raid to other banks, who might consider tightening security.

Previous attempts to break into cash machines have failed. Metal cutting equipment, for example, has burnt the cash.

Party gatecrasher stabbed teenagers

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A COUPLE returned from a trip to Ireland to discover that a party thrown by their teenage son had left their home a wreck and caused damage estimated at £30,000, the High Court in Glasgow was told yesterday.

David Wyllie and his wife arrived at their £300,000 house in the Whitecraigs area of Glasgow to discover that teenagers who were drunk and had taken drugs had kicked holes in the walls, deliberately burnt carpets with cigarettes, wrecked furniture and stained the carpets and walls with drink.

Gatecrashers had arrived at the party, and two boys were stabbed. Patrick McCann, 19, of Barassie, Strathclyde, has admitted two counts of stabbing after being refused entry to the party.

John Morris, for the defence, told the court that the Wyllies had thought that their teenage son was staying with a relative and did not know he had a key to the house. Instead, their son had invited dozens of friends to the impromptu party. "Their home

was a shambles," Mr Morris told the court.

The court heard that McCann and two friends were at a tennis club watching football on television when they heard about the party. Advocate depute Robert Reed, QC, said: "They went uninvited. The parents of the house were not at home and they were refused entry." He said that 15 youths from the party went outside and chased them. McCann then stabbed one teenager in the back and stabbed another six times.

The life of the first boy was saved by his father, who went into his bedroom during the night to discover that he had been stabbed through the lung. He was taken to the Victoria Infirmary where doctors operated and said he would have died without treatment. The boy was in hospital for two weeks. One of the stab wounds to the other victim was to his neck, narrowly missing the spinal column.

The judge, Lord Osborne, deferred sentence on McCann until next week, but said he might go to prison.

Mistress sues over home debt

A PROPERTY developer was sued by his mistress and her husband yesterday for a £200,000 debt after she was persuaded to buy a new home in which to carry on the affair.

Doreen Marsh, in her sixties, and her husband Donald, who knew of the affair, have brought the High Court action against Basil Dunning, claiming that he reneged on paying bills for the house after suffering a stroke.

Mr Dunning, of Pottenham, Surrey, claims that the Marshes have been motivated by greed and that Mr Marsh attempted blackmail him by threatening to tell his wife, who thought the affair was over, that it had resumed.

Gabriel Fadipe, for the Marshes, said that Mr Dunning, who had had an affair with Mrs Marsh for 16 years, offered to buy her a £180,000 house near Winchester in 1988. He said that he would cover the loan.

However, his payments stopped in 1989. The house was sold in 1990, by which time the debt, including interest, had risen to £200,000. The hearing continues.

Fuzzy details of a royal encounter

FROM QUENTIN LETTIS IN NEW YORK

PAUL THEROUX, the American novelist and travel writer, has broken protocol by publishing a semi-factual account of a London dinner party at which the Queen may have made remarks about a former Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea and his "fuzzy-wuzzy hair".

Theroux has written about the private dinner under the guise of "fact and fiction" in *The New Yorker* this week. The magazine would not confirm which parts were factual.

Theroux's story is described as "a blend of real and invented characters and episodes" and the magazine admits that its writer has, indeed, dined with the Queen. The people of Papua New Guinea will wonder under which category to

place comments Theroux says the Queen made about Rabbin Namaliu, their Prime Minister from 1988 to 1992.

Theroux has the Queen saying: "Papua New Guinea... Marvellous country. The Prime Minister visited the Palace just last week. He had splendid hair. Fuzzy-wuzzy hair! ... There is no other way to describe it. And his wife. Just sat next to him, smiling away, in her splendid gown. And she had fuzzy-wuzzy hair, too."

That may be seized on by sections of Papua New Guinea society that have been agitating to discard the monarchy. Although an independent country, it retains the Queen.

Of Mr Namaliu's Scottish-sounding first name, the



Theroux: Duke told him not to be silly

Queen, according to Theroux, said: "Perhaps there was some Scottish missionary in the picture."

Hugo Vickers, a biographer of royalty, said yesterday: "The people of Papua New Guinea do hold the Queen in high esteem and let

us hope they continue to do so, despite the efforts of Theroux. Any biographer welcomes accounts of private dinner parties but they always come out too soon and cause embarrassment."

In Theroux's story, the hosts of the Chelsea dinner party were Mr and Mrs "Laird Birdwood", a wealthy American whose English wife is described as having a family connection to the House of Windsor. The Earl and Countess of Airrie reportedly attended the party.

Theroux writes that he came off the loser in an encounter with the Duke of Edinburgh. Small talk not his forte, the Duke told Theroux not to be "silly" after the writer attempted a fruitless conversational gambit. Theroux was then shown the royal profile.

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Sexual motive suspected in murder of divorcee found near the site of an unsolved death

Woman drowned after killer bound her hands

By BILL FROST

AN ATTACKER who bound a woman's hands with a dog lead before pushing her into a river to drown might have sexually assaulted her before the murder, police said yesterday.

Detectives think the killer of Karen Skipper might have been lying in wait for her as she walked her two dogs. The way that Mrs Skipper, 34, who was divorced, had met her death late last Saturday night was terrible, a senior officer said yesterday.

Police were piecing together Mrs Skipper's last movements after her semi-naked body was recovered from the River Ely in Cardiff on Sunday. The alarm had been raised after her two dogs, Sammy, a black labrador, and Ellen, a brown collie cross, were found "guarding" some of her clothing on the riverbank.

Detective Superintendent

Terry Ewington, leading the hunt, said that Mrs Skipper was last seen alive at about 11.30pm on Saturday when she left her home in Ely, to take the dogs for a walk. She shared the house with friends and had relatives near by.

Mr Ewington said a post-mortem examination showed that she had drowned. "She was certainly alive when she went into the river."

Mr Ewington could not rule out the possibility that Mrs Skipper had been held under the water while her attacker waited for her to drown. He disclosed that she had also suffered some superficial injuries and he had not ruled out a sexual motive.

"We are most anxious to trace everyone in the area on Saturday night or early Sunday morning because they may have seen something suspicious," he said.

Reg Bean, who while walking his own dogs, found Mrs Skipper's pets whimpering on

the riverbank, said: "I noticed the two dogs huddled together. When they came towards me I could see they had been sitting on a pair of jeans. I began to fear the worst when there was no sign of the owner and then I could see a dark shadow under the surface of the water."

Yesterday, officers stepped up house-to-house inquiries on the nearby Ely and Fairwater housing estates.

Mrs Skipper, slim with shoulder-length brown hair, had been wearing a brown, sheepskin-lined bomber jacket, black jeans and a green and beige sweater. She wore three rings and gold earrings.

Police confirmed that her ex-husband had been interviewed, but not in connection with the murder. Mr Ewington said that he was being seen by a bereavement officer.

The riverbank is less than a mile from where Geraldine Palk, 27, was found murdered in 1990. DNA samples were

volunteered by about 4,000 men in the unsolved Palk murder case.

Mr Ewington said that at this stage there were no obvious links between the two murders, but officers would refer to details on the Palk database, should the need arise.

Last night it was disclosed that the dead woman had come to the aid of a newsagent trying to stop a youth pilfering in his shop last month. Bob Coles said: "I was taking the boy to the police station when two of his mates turned up and started threatening me. A young lady out walking her two dogs told them to stop — or she would set the dogs on them. They ran off — but I never had a chance to thank her properly for what she did."

Mr Coles added: "I immediately recognised the photo of her dogs. I am horrified that this has happened to a kind person who went out of her way to help me."



Karen Skipper, whose body was found on Sunday



Mrs Skipper's dogs were found beside her clothing

Police tell racegoers where to pin faith

By EMMA WILKINS

RACEGOERS at the Cheltenham National Hunt Festival are being urged to use safety pins to secure their pockets against thieves. With crowds of up to 150,000 expected for the three-day meeting which starts today, police said that spectators should be vigilant against pickpockets.

"Don't keep all your money in one pocket which is easily accessible," PC Roger Hill, Cheltenham's crime protection officer, said. "Spread your money around. Even a safety pin will keep your inside coat pocket secure."

Last year 40 people reported having their pockets picked, with four losing more than £1,000. Other popular items for thieves are mobile telephones, handbags and coats. Pickpockets are most likely to strike while bets are being placed or winnings collected.

The odds against becoming a victim of crime during the festival are 3,000-1, longer than for any of the horses. The highlight of today's racing will be the Smurfit Champion Hurdle, which pitches Danoli against Alderbrook, last year's winner. Many of the 5,000 Irish visitors are expected to pin their hopes on Danoli, a horse that has made a remarkable comeback after breaking a leg last season.

The total prizemoney this year is a record £1.25 million. Off-course betting over the three days is expected to generate a turnover of £100 million, with the average bet at just under £5.

Racing, pages 44, 45

Howard moves to cut drugs in prison

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

PRISONERS involved with drugs are to have their visiting privileges restricted, the Home Secretary announced yesterday. Opening a two-day conference in Birmingham on the drug problem, Michael Howard said a pilot scheme in nine prisons this summer was aimed at cutting supplies.

Anyone using or suspected of using drugs, smuggling or dealing in them will face controls on visits. They will be refused contact with friends or family and some will be forced to conduct visits from behind high-security glass screens. In other cases, inmates could have their visits strictly supervised by prison staff to stop any physical contact.

Mr Howard said he accepted the restrictions could prove contentious among inmates, but said those who wanted to keep their rights should simply refuse drugs. "There is strong evidence to indicate that it is prison visiting rooms which provide the most common route for traffickers. I believe I'm putting forward a sensible proposal to make our system a better system."

The Home Secretary added: "The object of the exercise is to make it much more difficult to get drugs into prison. Keeping drugs from getting into prisons is a tough business. I believe these measures will help us."

Prison staff and police know that drugs are smuggled into prisons during visits, passed under a table when the staff are not looking or exchanged during a kiss or embrace.

A white apple could keep the doctor away

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

FRUIT that is colour-coded may soon provide an easy way to take your medicine, a leading British geneticist has suggested. Red bananas, white apples or yellow tomatoes could all be grown, containing extra vitamins or even vaccines.

Professor Don Grierson of the University of Nottingham said.

The colour-coding would be used to indicate to people that the fruit they were eating had been genetically modified, he said. His team has identified the genes that control the smell, taste and colour of fruits, and produced white and yellow tomatoes to prove it.

Professor Grierson has also found the gene that in many

fruits produces the ethylene gas that causes ripening. He has created a variety of tomatoes that produces only a twentieth of the normal amount of ethylene, ripening well but staying fresher for weeks longer than normal.

Professor Grierson was involved with Zeneca, a pharmaceutical company, in the development of a non-rotting tomato that is already on sale in the supermarkets in the form of tomato purée.

The range of colours that can be controlled is already extensive. "We can't do the entire snooker table," he admits. "Whites, reds, yellows and oranges are straightforward, but blues and blacks are difficult."



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Labour urges inquiry into safety

RAF plane in fatal crash 'had vital controls detached'

By HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

AN RAF aircraft that crashed, killing the pilot, had taken off with its ailerons disconnected after maintenance, it is claimed today.

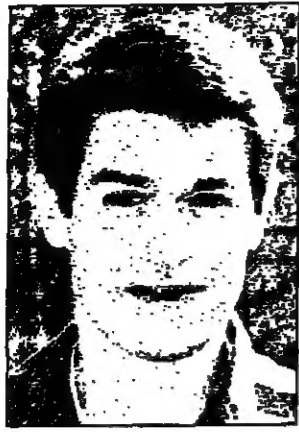
The Hawk trainer, one of nine military jets lost this year, rolled almost onto its back shortly after take-off from RAF Valley, Anglesey, last month. Flight Lieutenant Simon Burgess, 28, an Iraqi prisoner during the Gulf War, ejected but the aircraft had rolled too far and he died when his ejector seat hit the ground.

Labour last night demanded an inquiry into the safety of military aircraft amid concern that budget cuts are putting too much pressure on the Forces.

The magazine *Flight International* claims today that the initial accident report says that the Hawk's ailerons — moving surfaces on the wing that control the roll — were disconnected during maintenance work and not reconnected before take-off.

The pilot, who was an advanced flying instructor, would not have been able to tell from the control column that the ailerons were useless but should have made a visual check that they were working before taking off, the magazine says.

Flight Lieutenant Burgess, who was married and came from Grimsby, was the RAF's



Burgess died after ejecting over Anglesey

youngest pilot in the Gulf War. He ejected from a Tornado GR1 during a night mission over Basra in January 1991. The pilot and his navigator, Squadron Leader Robert Ankers, were captured by Iraqi civilians and held prisoner until March after being handed over to Iraqi troops.

MPs of all parties have expressed concern at the large number of military jets lost so far this year. Ten Forces aircraft crashed during the whole of 1995.

Dr David Clark, the Shadow Defence Secretary, said last night: "A comprehensive overview of safety is now absolutely essential. I am concerned that maintenance standards may be slipping because workers are being put under pressure to finish the

job more quickly and because of the concern over possible privatisation."

Flight International also called for an inquiry and said the Hawk accident raised fears about "widespread malaise" in the Service. "There is concern about the cumulative effects of the demands being placed upon RAF personnel by their political task-masters, while at the same time the demand is that they cut their cloth more sparingly," the magazine says in a leading article.

"The point is being reached where politicians will have to re-examine the demands they place upon the junior Service. The aircraft losses in general and the Hawk crash in particular should be a wake-up call to all those involved."

The RAF refused to discuss the report, saying that the cause of the crash was still under investigation. "We cannot comment on documents which they are not supposed to have and when the matter is still *sub judice*," an RAF spokesman said.

Four crewmen have died in the nine military crashes this year. Seven of the aircraft were flown by RAF crews and the others by Royal Navy personnel.

As well as the Hawk, the planes lost were two Tornado F3s, two Tornado GR1s, one Jaguar, two Sea Harriers and one Harrier. The combined cost of replacing them is nearly £200 million.



A fireman inspecting a car sandwiched between lorries on the M11 yesterday. The driver's leg was broken: the Toyota truck's driver died

Road accidents kill three in freezing fog

By OLIVER AUGUST

ONE person was killed and 15 injured in motorway crashes near Cambridge in freezing fog yesterday. Two others died after diversions were set up. About a hundred vehicles crashed near the junction of the M11 and A11. Police blamed motorists driving too fast and without lights.

The number of casualties might have been higher were it not for a man who ran back along the motorway waving a fluorescent jacket as a warning to drivers to slow down.

Weather forecasts for today predict more thick fog along the east coast, and police have appealed to drivers to be more careful. Essex Police said: "If this means slowing down to walking speed in fog, then so be it."

The pile-up happened when motorists in the morning rush hour failed to see an accident in front of them. A total of 75 cars was involved in the pile-up on the northbound carriageway. Another 20 drivers on the southbound side were distracted and crashed. At one time all six lanes were blocked as rescue services worked to free people

trapped in their cars. One man, who had been trapped for more than an hour, was in a serious condition after suffering multiple injuries. All other injuries were said to be minor.

The emergency services said the motorist who risked his life by running back into oncoming traffic gave about 90 drivers time to brake. "He certainly saved my life," Kieron Saunders, from Cambridge, said. "All I could see was fog when he appeared waving this shiny jacket. I slowed right down and suddenly there were these huge black shapes lying across

the road. I would have gone straight into them at 60mph if he hadn't risked his life to warn me. I would like to say a sincere thank you to him, whoever he is. It took a lot of courage and he saved a lot of lives."

As traffic was diverted away from the M11, two people died in further accidents. One person was killed when a car and a motorcycle collided on the A604 near Newmarket. Another died in a crash on the A505 near Royston.

Forecast, page 24

Anglers sue tennis club over lights

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

FISHERMEN in Scotland have taken a tennis club to court, claiming that its floodlights are driving away the fish in an angling river.

The 180 members of the Stonehaven and District Anglers Association in Grampian say it is impossible to catch sea trout because they are shying away from the bright lights of the Stonehaven Tennis and Bowling Association's courts, which have been floodlit for six years.

David McDonald, 47, chairman of the Scottish Anglers Association and a former secretary of the Stonehaven club, told Stonehaven Sheriff Court yesterday that fishermen were in despair. He said the bright lights "crucially" the sea trout, which gather in the estuary pool in the River Covie, normally the most abundant pool in the river.

He said there was a widespread feeling of hopelessness among the anglers whenever the lights were switched on.

Mr McDonald told the court that the best time to catch sea trout was from dusk until the second hour of darkness. But he said the floodlighting meant the numbers of fish caught at night were minimal.

"I personally have never caught fish during illumination. It is recognised by all our members that, when that level of light is on, angling is not productive on the estuary," he said.

The court heard that the club, formed in 1937, had access to all but a mile of the river, with 53 per cent of the sea trout caught coming from the estuary pool. The sea trout season runs from February 11 to October 31, with the best fish being caught during the summer months.

The anglers, who claim the lights constitute a nuisance, want them turned off most nights during the summer.

The hearing before Sheriff John Eccles is expected to last several days.

Labour backs access to tax-exempt works of art

By NIGEL WILLIAMSON, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

PRIVATE collectors claiming tax exemption on works of art will be forced to give the public greater access under a Labour government. A loophole that allows wealthy families to avoid inheritance tax on valuable paintings, furniture, porcelain and jewellery will be tightened to guarantee full viewing rights to taxpayers.

Alistair Darling, Labour's Treasury spokesman, said: "To gain tax exemption owners will have to give genuine access, listing when and where works can be seen. Many of these works of art, which are costing the taxpayer in lost revenue, remain as private as they ever were." Tighter guidelines would not need legislation.

More than 700 owners take advantage of the scheme, which is an incentive to keep valuable works in Britain that might be sold overseas. Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, this week moved an

antique mahogany buffet from his dining room to a warehouse to comply with access requirements. A Channel 4 programme asked to see the piece of furniture and Mr Soames was reluctant to invite them to his home.

Critics say access is not publicised and in many cases heavily restricted. A random survey last year found fewer than 10 per cent of the works of art registered were accessible for immediate viewing.

A visit to Cornwall to view the collection of the 10th Earl of St Germans would reveal a Rembrandt and ten Van Dycks, all tax exempt. The public also has a rarely exercised right to see a privately owned Titian, *Two Boys Of The Pesaro Family*. Valued at £7 million, the picture is in a bank vault in Edinburgh.

Mr Darling said: "We don't expect owners to start building galleries. But the guidelines have to be tightened to prevent

obstacles being put in the way of the viewing public."

The public must consult a computerised list, held at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London and three other locations. The register contains more than 14,000 items, is not illustrated and there is no index. Names of owners and sites are seldom included. Solicitors and banks given as contact numbers frequently ask several weeks' notice in writing to arrange a viewing.

The Inland Revenue guidelines require owners to allow "reasonable access". Complaints are referred to the Capital Taxes Office, which has the ultimate sanction of removing exemption. Officials are conducting a series of audit checks on accessibility but to date no owner has had exemption status removed.

"The scheme is working very well. We have no evidence of abuse," an Inland Revenue spokesman said.

Wellington plaque sells for £43,000

By JOHN VINCENT

A PREVIOUSLY unrecorded miniature porcelain plaque of the Duke of Wellington, commissioned by an unknown admirer in 1815 after the victory at Waterloo, fetched £43,300 at auction yesterday — seven times the estimate.

The portrait of the duke in profile, still in its original frame, was painted in enamel by Etienne-Charles Le Guay, the leading artist at Sevres, the renowned manufacturers of French porcelain. But the piece is not included in the list of known portraits of the duke.

Although it has apparently changed hands at regular intervals over the past 180 years, its significance has never been acknowledged.

At yesterday's sale at Christie's in London, an anonymous collector, bidding by telephone, paid well over the £6,000-£8,000 estimate put on the plaque by Paul Tippet, a ceramics specialist. He said afterwards: "There was a fan-



The portrait's existence had never been recorded

tastic amount of interest in this important and historic piece. It was painted at a very interesting point in European history and practically nobody knew anything about it."

Mr Tippet, who was handling the sale on behalf of an anonymous English collector, said it was unlikely that Wellington commissioned the plaque himself, although he probably posed for a preliminary sketch.

Wanted: a ram to breed with the wonder of woolies



The cloned sheep are said to be completely healthy

By MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

TWO cloned sheep, which are at the centre of a debate about scientific ethics after being conceived in a laboratory without the aid of semen, are to be allowed to mate this autumn in the first test of their fertility.

Scientists involved in the cloning experiment say the eight-month-old Welsh mountain ewes, Megan and Morag, are both in excellent health and should be able to breed normally.

They are being reared on a research farm near Edinburgh. Ian Wilmut, who is in charge of the project at the

Roslin Institute, Lothian, said: "Both animals have been out in the fields and bounding about and appear to be completely healthy and behaving in a fully normal way."

The Roslin research team were criticised at the weekend for failing to mention in the report of their work in the science journal *Nature* that four out of five cloned lambs were unusually large at birth, that one had to be delivered by Caesarean section and that three had malformed organs.

Dr Wilmut said yesterday: "Hindsight is a wonderful thing and possibly it might have been better to have mentioned all these factors, but

in the scope of a 1,000-word article some detail had to be left out. There was certainly no intention to conceal anything. I made clear from the outset that we still have problems with this technique and that it is nowhere close yet to commercial application. Indeed, it may be up to 20 years before it could be used to produce large numbers of identical animals."

Altogether, 250 embryos were produced. Of these, 34 were transferred within hours to the wombs of a range of Scottish blackface ewes, which acted as surrogate mothers. All but five of the embryos failed to come to term. Of the five lambs born, two died

within minutes and one after several days. Dr Wilmut said: "Comparing their birth weights with the average for Welsh mountain lambs is misleading because the embryos were carried by Scottish blackface ewes, which are larger than the Welsh sheep and would be expected to produce bigger lambs, even though they had no genetic input."

On average, Welsh mountain lambs weigh 3.5kg (7lb 11oz). The animal born by Caesarean section (which later died) weighed 6.75kg. Both Megan and Morag were delivered normally, with Morag weighing 4.40kg and Megan 3.20kg.

Seasiders ready to confiscate car stereos

By A STAFF REPORTER

MOTORISTS with noisy car stereos face fines of up to £2,000 and the confiscation of their equipment in an experiment at a holiday resort this summer.

Portsmouth City Council's environmental health department is to join the police in carrying out spot-checks along the seafront at Southsea. Drivers will first be given a warning: if they reoffend, they will be served with a summons and will face fines of up to £2,000. Magistrates have the power to confiscate equipment under the Control of Pollution Act 1974.

Environmental health officials operated a scheme last year in which noisy cars were pulled over and drivers were asked to turn their music down, but no penalties were handed out.

Dave Collins, Portsmouth's assistant head of environmental health, said: "Some of the sound equipment you would normally expect to see only on stage. One van had dustbin-sized speakers fitted underneath and they were even illuminated. The noise was just incredible. On some cars you open the boot and there is no room for luggage: it is all taken up with amplifiers."

CORRECTION

Two British soldiers alleged to have assaulted a British tourist in Larnaca, Cyprus (report March 2), were not, as incorrectly stated, members of The King's Own Royal Border Regiment.



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Councils forced to spend much-needed funds on tenants' compensation claims

Lawyers profit from run-down housing

By IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

LAWYERS are collecting millions of pounds in fees and winning substantial compensation for tenants of council properties left dilapidated by years of neglect. Solicitors specialising in disrepair cases are canvassing run-down municipal estates, offering free advice and promises of compensation.

According to the Chartered Institute of Housing, many authorities, especially those in depressed areas, are spending up to 10 per cent of their housing repair budgets on litigation. "Places with the problem tend to be cities with a fairly active legal fraternity who are tapping an easy market," Louise Ayriss at the institute said.

Lawyers say years of neglect and bad management have left thousands of tenants living in property often condemned by the councils' own health departments as unfit for human habitation. A legally aided battle to obtain their rights is often the only sure

way tenants have of forcing money-strapped councils to carry out long overdue repairs. The problem has become so severe that Lord Woolf has made its resolution a priority in his current inquiry into the working of the civil courts.

Joanna Miller, a solicitor in the housing department at Liverpool City Council, said that 25 per cent of the £40 million repair budget now goes on legal fees and compensation. "Firms target an estate where we are trying to get the job done in consultation with the residents and when the claims start coming in it messes up all our plans. Half of our 48,000 properties are substandard and the money should be spent on making our stock fit to live in instead of going into the pockets of lawyers."

Jed McGuinness, chairman of the Liverpool Tenants' Association, said that solicitors exploited the fact that residents became frustrated wait-

ing for repairs. "It is disgusting to see money that should go on repairs going into the pockets of lawyers. There are 30,000 properties in Liverpool that need reworking and we are not even scratching the surface, and these people walk away with cash that we desperately need."

Hugh Mackenzie, of the Chester-based solicitors Gamlin Storr Cowdry, says his firm is providing a much-needed public service by offering to fight for tenants' rights on run-down council estates in Liverpool. "Yes,

there is a commercial incentive for us," he said, "but at the same time we are helping people to escape from damp, mouldy properties which ruin their health and life. What's wrong with that?"

Birmingham, Europe's largest housing authority with 100,000 properties on its books, has a £100 million annual repair budget of which £1.9 million goes in legal fees, £1.6 million in compensation and a further £4.4 million in repairs ordered by the courts. "We are forever fire-fighting

BILLIONS NEEDED

Repair costs for the 3.7 million council properties are estimated to be £10.5 billion over the next decade, plus a further £8 billion for improvements.

Between 1993 and 1998 the total council capital expenditure on housing is estimated to fall by 22 per cent, from £2.9 billion to £2.2 billion.

The withdrawal of government subsidy has increased weekly council rents since 1989 from £20.70 to £38.38.

On average, 60 per cent of council tenants

receive housing benefit and qualify for legal aid.

Tenants not on housing benefit usually cannot qualify for legal aid but their rent money is part of the housing repair budget, which is used to pay legal fees and compensation. The higher the cost of litigation, the more rent rises.

It is a criminal offence under the 1990 Environment Protection Act for a council to allow a property to fall into a state of disrepair that constitutes a statutory nuisance. Most disrepair cases are brought under this Act.

organised their repairs better it would not cost them anything like as much as it does. "Why shouldn't a tenant receive compensation after enduring years of living in appalling conditions? After 20 to 30 years of poor maintenance, we are getting to a crisis point and there really is not enough money to look after the housing stock. The real target should be the Government and it is a great shame we are fighting each other rather than fighting the real cause of the problem - lack of investment in housing."

Hackney Council in east London has had more than 1,000 legal cases to deal with since 1993 and has written £3.2 million into next year's budget for litigation costs.

Maureen Mullen, a tenant who has waged a legal battle for more than ten years with Hackney, has so far cost it a total of £128,951. The council repeatedly promised to repair the five-bedroom Victorian home she and her seven children were allocated in

Police take hospital to court

POLICE are taking legal action against hospital administrators for refusing to disclose details of a patient suspected of being involved in crime.

The man, treated for cut hands at St Mary's Hospital, Newport, Isle of Wight, was accused of smashing a shop window and stealing expensive clothing.

The hospital had previously agreed that details would be given in the case of serious offences, such as murder and rape. Staff considered the alleged theft not serious enough to warrant disclosure.

The police are to ask a judge to order the hospital to reveal his name. Inspector Steve Evans said: "There is no law of confidentiality. It is simply the hospital's internal code of conduct operating here."

Mike Powell, the hospital's chief executive, said it would defend its position in court, but comply with any court order.

How one family ruins a respectable street

By IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

LAWYERS to speed the eviction of families who terrorise housing estates are being considered as a top priority by Lord Woolf, who is completing a review of justice for the Government.

He has met tenants from 13 estates to hear of the mayhem that one anti-social family can cause. Roger Griffiths, director of housing at Coventry, who organised the gathering, said: "He was obviously very concerned by what he heard and this problem has now gone right to the top of Lord Woolf's agenda. The Housing Bill now before Parliament gives some powers of eviction but it just does not go anywhere near far enough to tackle the problem."

"We are talking about bodily harm, racial intimidation and drug trafficking on a large scale. People are too frightened to give evidence and even if we do get someone prepared to be a witness the process takes up to 18 months and all that time they have to live next door to the person who is making their life hell. Something has to be done to create confidence in the system."

Gerry Carroll, deputy chairman of Manchester's housing committee, discovered the problem for himself two years ago. He had lived on the Wythenshawe estate for 30 years when his next-door neighbour moved out and a family comprising an unem-



Carroll: threatened by aggressive neighbour

ployed man, his partner and two young children moved in.

"They arrived on the Thursday and on the Saturday night they started shouting, fighting and throwing things," Mr Carroll said. "The walls are only thin and the sound of a woman being beaten came through clearly. The kids were crying, the dogs were barking and we were left trembling."

"For a long time we were scared to complain. We saw them fighting in the street and once some of his friends came round and there were 15 of them out there fighting."

"We tolerated this sort of behaviour for some time, partly because we were frightened to say anything, but in the end we complained. I had not realised that the complaint

would then be passed on to the neighbour. After that, he threatened to torch the house, set fire to our car and to come round with a 4lb coal hammer. He said he would smash me and wouldn't mind going to prison for it. That sort of talk gets to you."

"The house is semi-detached and I would lie awake all night listening for creaks in the loft, terrified that he was coming in that way."

After "18 months of increasing hell" Mr Carroll obtained an injunction against his neighbour, but the judge insisted that the man be given another home near by. "I am still terrified he will come round and do something."

The man's behaviour destroyed the atmosphere in the street. "Some people sided with him, perhaps because they were frightened, and others with us. There are now two factions and they still won't speak to each other."

"People like this can ruin an area. They force families to leave, a house becomes empty, nobody wants to take it on and vandals move in and trash it. We have had to pull down whole streets because of just one anti-social tenant."

"In Manchester we have been the first to introduce probationary tenancies to try and ensure good behaviour. There are those who say that this takes away civil liberties, but what about the civil liberties of the families whose lives can be ruined?"



Veronica Spalding-Hall with Daniel, 12 weeks, who was not due until next week

Hospitals send home babies weeks before scheduled birth

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

PARENTS of premature babies are being given training to allow them to care for their children at home. Daniel, born 13 weeks prematurely last December, spent less than eight weeks in hospital before being sent home to Harston, Cambridgeshire, more than a month before he was due to be born.

His mother, Veronica Spalding-Hall, 30, uses an oxygen concentrator and tube-feeds her son, who would normally have spent months being monitored in the special care baby unit at Addenbrooke's

Hospital, Cambridge, where he was born. "We were very nervous but it was wonderful to have him home. In hospital, you feel a bit like you are playing at being a Mum."

Daniel, now 12 weeks old, is connected to the oxygen concentrator for four hours each morning and night. Enriched air is fed into his nostrils via a plastic tube attached to his head. The concentrator, the size of a small fridge, is installed under the stairs and pipes run to the sitting room and upstairs to Daniel's bedroom. Portable oxygen cylinders

are used when he goes out.

About 90 babies needing oxygen and tube-feeding and weighing as little as 3lb 9oz have gone home under the neonatal community service, established two years ago. Parents are taught to recognise signs of illness and community nurses visit regularly to provide support.

Mrs Spalding-Hall, who also has a daughter aged nine, said: "It was exhausting when Daniel was in hospital. Family life only begins when the baby comes home."

Marine dies in training incident

A MARINE has died after diving to the bottom of a swimming pool during a training test.

Nigel Foster, 27, from Portsmouth, who was in his first week of training at Lympstone, Devon, after eight years in the RAF, had been allowed to take his battle swimming test as he was a strong swimmer. He dived to fetch his rifle, which he had dropped.

Marine Foster had completed two lengths of the pool while carrying his rifle, webbing and weights, and was handing the weapon to a colleague on the poolside when he dropped it. He removed his webbing and a 1lb weight and then duck-dived 12ft to recover the gun from the deep end but failed to surface.

Instructors and doctors tried to revive him but he was declared dead after arriving at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital on Friday. The Royal Marines have begun an internal inquiry, and officers at Lympstone were yesterday awaiting the results of a post-mortem examination.

Huddersfield huffs over Wilson tribute

By PAUL WILKINSON

HAROLD WILSON, hailed as the Prime Minister with an eye for the common touch, has been brought down to earth by the burghers of his home town, Huddersfield. Seeking to provide a memorial for its most famous son, who died aged 79 last May, officials on the staunchly Labour Kirkstall council have drawn up a list of what they consider suitable sites to honour the late Lord Wilson of Rievaulx.

A meeting of the council tomorrow will decide what form a memorial will take. Councilors will decide if they should put

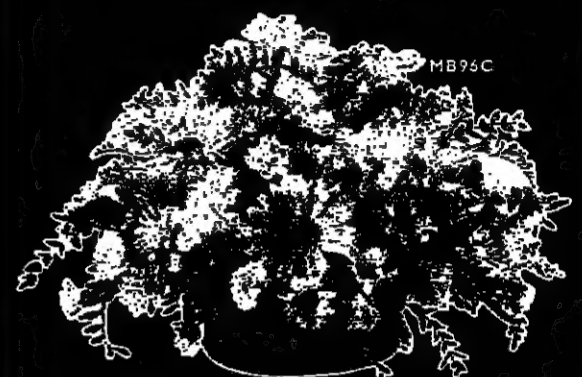
up a statue or name a prominent building or organisation in Lord Wilson's memory. Eric Lawson, a Labour member of the committee responsible for choosing a site, said: "I hope we will opt for a statue of a dumpy little figure wearing his famous Gannex raincoat and puffing on his equally famous pipe."

Sites being considered have infuriated residents, who fear the memory of their most famous son will be tarnished unless a prime location is chosen. Suggestions have included the loading bay to an underground service area of a shopping development, a flight of stairs in the car

park at Huddersfield bus station, a bridge over the M62, the middle of an out-of-town roundabout and outside an electricity showroom on the outer ring road.

Sarah Cheffins, the council's public relations officer, said: "These locations have been carefully chosen so that the maximum number of visitors can see the memorial." But Harold Ainley, 80, who attended school with Lord Wilson, said: "All those sites, particularly the loading bay, are an insult to an outstanding politician and great Prime Minister. It's sickening. It's no way of honouring the town's most famous son."

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Russians isolated in a body-strewn city without power

BY RICHARD BEESTON IN GROZNY AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

SMALL groups of Chechen rebels battled with Russian troops yesterday as separatist fighters continued their retreat from the Chechen capital.

The entire city was without water and power after four days of fierce fighting, during which the rebels have destroyed water pumping stations and power plants and set an oil refinery ablaze.

Hundreds of Russian forces have sealed off several blocks of the city centre, where a little corner of Russian officialdom, complete with bureaucrats, secretaries and government offices, thrives behind barbed wire and machinegun nests.

But walk a few yards in any direction beyond the government compound and it becomes obvious how tenuous is Russia's hold over Grozny. At the central market place, where traders were back after the clashes, a young rebel fighter walked among the shoppers, cradling an assault

rifle and even stopping briefly to chat to reporters. "The fight is not over yet. We will continue until the last Russian soldier is driven from our land," he said, before melting into the crowd.

On Lenin Prospekt, one of the main arteries of the city and the scene of some of the heaviest fighting in last week's rebel assault, the Russian forces were still not in full control. We counted the bodies of eight civilians still lying in the street where they had fallen in the crossfire between Russian and Chechen forces.

One of the most telling signals of the loss of Russian authority was the absence of any pro-Russian Chechen police on the streets. Before last week's raid, the Kremlin had invested enormous resources to try to strengthen the position of Doku Zavgayev, the Moscow-backed President of Chechnia, elected in a highly dubious vote last De-

cember. But the small militia force he had put together evaporated during the early stages of the fighting after taking heavy casualties.

Reports in Grozny suggested that some officers switched sides to the separatist cause and allowed rebel fighters to use their weapons, uniforms and police vehicles to travel round the city unopposed by the Russians. Interfax reported yesterday that Russian troops sold a tank and armoured combat vehicle to a group of rebels for the equivalent of £2,500 after getting drunk with them.

Anatoli Kulikov, the Interior Minister, said here yesterday that the rebel force which attacked Grozny last week numbered about 1,000, of which 300 had been killed and 350 wounded. The toll was roughly double the earlier figures. The Interior Ministry said that 170 Russian troops had been killed.



A Chechen refugee waits at a checkpoint with her baby on the way back to Grozny, where the central market has reopened after four days of fighting

Europe's leaders reject Santer job-creation plan

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

EUROPEAN governments yesterday poured cold water on a scheme by Jacques Santer, the Commission President, which would use unspent European Union funds on projects to create jobs.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, joined ministers from France, Germany and three other states in telling Mr Santer that, if the EU budget was underspent, the excess cash should be returned to the member states rather than shifted into expensive new projects.

"We cannot have loose budgets at the community level and austerity at the national level," said Jean Arthuis, the French Finance Minister.

Clearly stung by the ministerial rebuff, Mr Santer pointed out that his plans for spending on research and development and large-scale transport systems was a response to the governments' own demands for action to alleviate unemployment, which is the biggest scourge of the EU. If the members continued to block such action, "then

it will be clear where the responsibility lies," said a spokesman for Mr Santer.

The ministers believed that, despite the economic downturn across Europe, spending heavy sums on public projects would send the wrong message at a time when governments are demanding sacrifices from taxpayers in the name of curbing budget deficits. Ministers put a brave face on what the Commission calls the "pause" in European growth, and several voiced optimism that monetary union could still go ahead on schedule in 1999.

The normally voluble Mr Clarke, who last week voiced support for Britain's entry to European Monetary Union, was tight-lipped as he rushed back to London ahead of today's publication of the government's White Paper on its plans for the Maastricht review. No one at the EU session had mentioned the word "referendum" was all he said in response to a question on Britain's debate on whether to hold an EMU plebiscite.

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Prince is excluded from oath

Canberra: John Howard, the new Australian Prime Minister, swore allegiance to the Queen but not the Prince of Wales yesterday as he was officially confirmed in his new post.

In swearing the oath of allegiance he specifically deleted the words "and her heirs and successors". Mr Howard, an avowed monarchist, won the election in a landslide vote that had little to do with the issue of whether Australia should become a republic. He has promised a people's convention on the subject and, if it opts for a republic, a referendum. (AP)

Suspect killed

Karachi: Pakistani security forces killed a wanted Mohajir "terrorist" with a price tag of five million rupees (£95,000) on his head at a hideout here. Naeem Sherri died with another militant. (Reuters)

Tamil ambush

Colombo: Tamil Tigers ambushed and killed 23 Sri Lankan commandos in hand-to-hand fighting near Batticaloa after helicopter gunships destroyed two rebel bases, killing 40 guerrillas. (AFP)

Mayor on trial

Lyons: Michel Noir, the former Mayor of Lyons, France's second city, went on trial for the second time in a year on new charges of corruption, by using municipal funds fraudulently. (Reuters)

Mafia round-up

Rome: Italian police have arrested 226 people in a series of dawn raids on charges of belonging to the Camorra, the Neapolitan mafia, and of drugs trafficking and other offences. (Reuters)

Dhaka clashes

Dhaka: One man was killed and nearly 50 were injured in gunbattles and bombings involving rival Bangladeshi activists on the third day of an opposition-led "non-cooperation" campaign. (Reuters)

Malan maintains 'hit squad' denial

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN DURBAN

AMID angry scenes at the Supreme Court in Durban, General Magnus Malan, the former South African Defence Minister, and 19 co-accused yesterday pleaded not guilty to murder in connection with alleged hit squad killings of apartheid government opponents in the 1980s. Six black policemen and a senior member of the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party, followed by white former soldiers and their ageing apartheid-era security chiefs, in turn denied 13 charges of murder, four of attempted murder, delivering rebuttals in Zulu or Afrikaans. General Malan, 66, answered firmly "Onskuldig" (not guilty). Resuming after a week to give the defence more time to

study prosecution documents released only last Monday, the case relates to the involvement of 12 former security chiefs in a covert operation against the then banned ANC and its allies.

It involved setting up a hit squad that allegedly carried out the 1987 massacre of 13 people, five of them children aged between four and ten, at the home of an ANC official in KwaMakhutha, a township near Durban.

Also in the dock is Zakhele "MZ" Khumalo, Inkatha's deputy secretary-general, who was once personal assistant to its leader, Chief Mangosuthu Buthezi.

Outside the court, a water cannon was used to disperse a boisterous crowd of several hundred Inkatha supporters.



Schäuble supports idea of hard-core Europe

Successor 'anointed by Kohl'

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

HELMUT KOHL has secretly agreed that his right-hand man, Wolfgang Schäuble, will be the Christian Democrat's candidate for the German leadership in the 1998 general election, according to a book published this week.

The first comprehensive biography of Herr Schäuble, the wheelchair-bound Christian Democrat (CDU) parliamentary leader, suggests the two reached an understanding before the October 1994 elections. The author, Ulrich Rietz, says the outgoing Chancellor and his anointed crown prince will campaign in tandem.

The move would throw into a spin plans for deeper European integration: 1998 is already set to be complex, marking the final preparations for European monetary union and the beginning of negotiations on Europe's eastward enlargement. Herr Schäuble, 53, put his name to a strategy paper calling for a hard-core Europe — a document shockingly explicit about those countries, such as Italy, likely to be left outside. He is a firm believer in the Franco-German axis and recently bemoaned its stagnation.

Much has changed since the two men allegedly struck their deal and it may be the Chancellor is having second thoughts. The ten-seat parliamentary majority, frailty of the Free Democrats, the CDU's junior coalition partner, and popular opposition to European monetary union are all factors that may persuade Herr Kohl to stay in 2000.



What fun to be mistress of Cliveden, glorious backdrop to the Profumo affair and now converted by one's affluent husband into a hotel for the rich and pampered. How pleasant to lie by the pool where Christine Keeler and Mandy Rice-Davies swam, and plan one's schedule of cultural soirées with a little light acting tossed in.

son, Jonathan, at 38, and held forth on the idylls of marriage and late motherhood to the point where the more unkind might have felt like strangling the erstwhile Roberta with her red floral bloomers.

It looked for a time as if I might not have this option. Was Mrs. Thum (her Cliveden label) expecting me? the receptionist at another of her husband's delightful hotels wondered smugly. She had not mentioned callers and, besides, she had gone out. However, if I would park next to the lilies (more choreographed than arranged), we would see if she turned up.

She was slightly flustered when she arrived. Traffic. The school run. A row over parking in which she had to restrain herself from screaming: "Look, just what is your problem?" It was the first indication that Roberta might not be quite so sugary after all.

The second was her anguish over her latest part. And *The*

Beat Goes On, an eight-part TV series set on Merseyside in the Sixties, begins next Tuesday, and she plays Constance Spencer, the wife of the local MP. "I only had a day to think about the character, because I took the job after Jane Asher dropped out."

Absolutely no actresses confess who was first choice for a part they have accepted. But Agutter — Royal Shakespeare Company performer and award-winning film star — learnt long ago to loathe the self-image Hollywood required of her. "Over there, you have to be seen at the openings, appear in the magazines. I always felt uncomfortable

about the selling of myself: It made me very nervous about what I had to offer."

Particularly since directors of films ranging from *Walk-about* to *Equus* decreed that a chief selling point was her body. "Having to be naked always made me terribly anxious. They invariably say it's an integral part of the drama, but *Equus* was terribly embarrassing to do in rehearsal.

"My co-star, Peter Firth, was reminding me only the other day how particularly uncomfortable I am. When we had to do the close shots it became

"I spent almost everything I had. I even sold my house to get money to carry on." Give it up, her friends told her. Sell real estate. Instead, after finally getting more film work they made a movie in the form of *Johan Tham*, nine years her senior, already settled in homes in Vaudhall and Cornwall and owner of some of the country's smarter hotels. Gushing, happy-ever-after stories accompanied her wedding, and she was, still, *is*, content.

"I could never have married before. The people I meet in my profession are wonderful but so immature. I'm filled with admiration for Judi Dench and Michael Williams because I don't know how they do it. I had a few relationships with actors and I thought: never again. Too many people struggling for the bathroom mirror in the morning.

"And I'm not easy to live with. Not then and not now. I thought it was, but I'm not. I thought it was, but I'm not."

be fine, she works still for the charity linked to the illness and watches as her niece, a sufferer, copes with its effects.

Rachel is 17 now, and one just wonders about any cold or illness. She's had spells in hospital but no major damage to her lungs. The most difficult thing for her manager is having to do exercises every day at a time in your life when you think yourself invincible."

She says it matter-of-factly, but then Agutter has always been tougher than she gives herself credit for. An army officer's daughter, rootless and accustomed to travel, she could easily recast herself, at 43, as the perfect hostess and ornamental wife. But she loves acting, she says, is passionate still about her career, and besides she is not really a natural for the high life. She still buys her jumpers from thrift shops and scours *Time Out* for the cheapest bucket-shop air fares.

"I would never encourage Jonathan to go into acting. It's so fraught with traps and littered with failures. I remember one film called *The Dark Tower*, which was never shown. It was supposed to be in a Barcelona skyscraper but all they could afford was a four-storey building. We called it *The Dark Squat*."

The move from dark squat to Gliven is a fair step. It is to Mrs Thain's credit that it was

Four years ago, Kathleen Waugh disappeared from her bed in Knowl House, a residential home for the physically and mentally disabled, in Ashton-under-Lyne. Six weeks later the body of Kathleen, a 41-year-old with the mind of a child, who could not talk and walked only with difficulty, was found in a reservoir 25 miles away.

No one has ever been able to explain how she disappeared from under the noses of care workers employed by the Tameside council to protect her, why the autopsy showed her body to be full of drugs, and why information was withheld from the police.

Until 1984, Kathleen

was treated as a straightforward missing persons inquiry. They said she'll turn up, but we felt something was wrong," says her niece, Lisa, who appears in *The Killing of Kathleen Waugh*, a Network First documentary to be screened tonight (TV, 10.40pm).

In fact, it was impossible for Kathleen to have left the home alone. She was afraid of the dark and could not walk any distance unaided. Kathleen's body was found on February 15, 1992, wearing trainers. She had last been seen wearing pyjamas in bed; she could not have left the place alone.

The body had been in the water too long for a cause of death to be established.

Police found that several hundred pounds were missing from Kathleen's bank account. They also learnt that she had gone missing before and had been found in a nearby field in a nighdness.

There was no longer a manager, but a residential services manager — who was also in charge of two other homes — had an overview responsibility. Day-to-day running was shared between deputy officer Jenny Caldwell and two other deputies.

On the night of December 27, 1991, Ms Caldwell was out, until the end of her shift at 10pm, when she handed over to two residential care workers, Ann Clayton and Bernadette Jones. Twice that night the security alarm sounded outside Kathleen's flat, which she shared with another resident, Agnes Pashley. The first time, Ms Clayton went to check on Kathleen, who was sitting up in bed, wearing her pyjamas. The second time, they assumed the disturbance had been caused by Agnes, who had wandered outside. Both said they made hourly checks through the night by listening at Kathleen's door.

At 9 o'clock the following morning, they discovered that Kathleen was missing. There were no signs of a break-in. At first the case

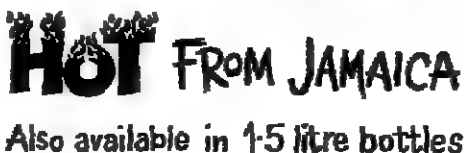
The autopsy found traces of two sedatives in her blood, neither of which was prescribed for her, although one was given to other residents. Sheila Farrington, another of the deputies at Knowl House, says drugs were kept in an unlocked box and administered by untrained staff.

It was not until January 29, four weeks after Kathleen went missing, that Mrs Clayton and Mr Jones told police what on the night in question a former council care worker had visited for an hour before midnight for a chat with them.

During the early stages of the investigation Ms Caldwell was arrested and later released without charge. A subsequent internal inquiry by Tameside resulted in Ms Caldwell's dismissal for misconduct. The coroner recorded an open verdict, ruling that Kathleen had been killed by an unknown person.

The case is still open, but the police admit that they are running out of leads. Meanwhile, a family is left to live with the mystery of a loved one's death.

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This writ should not run over us

Iain Duncan Smith says the Government should reject the European Court's fishing decision

Far too many people have been surprised by last week's European Court of Justice ruling, allowing Spanish fishermen to own vessels in Britain to claim damages against the British Government. They should not have been surprised, because this stems from a previous judgment which overturned a legitimate British Act of Parliament.

Now, using a doctrine that it propounded in 1991, the European Court of Justice has made Britain liable for compensation which could run as high as £30 million. The question for us all should be why the court is able to make such rulings, and what can be done about it.

The European Court of Justice is the real force acting on what has been referred to as the rather of European centralisation and the creation of full political union. The court, sitting in secret, sees its role as the interpreter of the European treaties between the inter-governmental conferences.

More importantly, it decides, in the absence of treaty obligations, what the intention of the politicians was when they drafted the treaties. This of course gives it huge licence, through the process of interpretation, to make legislation which national governments must obey. Through the rule of direct applicability, these judgments have to be enforced by national courts as though they were national laws, but with the added weight of being supreme above any national Act of Parliament.

It is clear that the power of the European Court of Justice has far-reaching implications for nationally elected governments. The fishing judgment is an excellent example, because it was not based on any treaty wording, but was simply what the judges believed was implied in a treaty.

This process is a further worry, going beyond the genuine concerns about the wording of treaties themselves. This judge-made law enables our domestic courts not only to strike down Acts of Parliament, but to override the nationally elected representatives in the country.

This judgment clearly demonstrates the need for major change in both the structure of the court and the way in which European law is applied. British citizens using common sense know instinctively something is wrong when Spanish fishermen are able to establish themselves in the British Isles and take up to nearly half the quota of some fish types, so breaking the quota system and making a complete mockery of conservation.

At the heart of this is the much-debated common fisheries policy. This does not deal with the issue of conservation. Rather, it is slowly strangling British fishermen while giving the kiss of life to an oversized Spanish industry, which British taxpayers have helped to subsidise.

The Government has now decided that it will take this up forcibly at the inter-governmental conference, and seek treaty amendments to change this judgment and reform the common fisheries policy. Yet while they are doing that, our courts will be hearing these cases and awarding compensation in accordance with the ruling of the European Court of Justice. This will cost the British taxpayer millions of pounds in court time and the cost of the awards, and will make a mockery of the Government's clear expressions of opposition to this judgment.

The Government should therefore act now to stop these cases going ahead until it has resolved the matter. It should pass a simple Act of Parliament amending the 1972 European Communities Act to stop the ruling applying in British courts. This could be passed swiftly, without opposition: any who opposed it would have to explain why they care less for British taxpayers than for the quota system for Spanish fishermen.

Once passed, this Act would provide the British Government with a very strong case at the inter-governmental conference. It would have strengthened its hand with a full expression of the will of the British Parliament. It would also demonstrate to this court that the British Government means business and would give it a chance to review bad judgments in future.

There will be those who resist such a course of action, because it brings us into conflict with European law and they do not want to rock the boat. Yet in Germany, the Constitutional Court will not permit lower courts to recognise judgments by the European Court of Justice which may be incompatible with the German Basic Law. The Constitutional Court has even ruled that the Bundestag must be consulted before the German Government can join a single currency, because it is a constitutional change. I do not remember hearing a murmur from Brussels that this was wrong. It is only by reaching for things which faint hearts think unachievable that we achieve anything.

Now that the Government has decided to take a strong line about this at the inter-governmental conference, it has become a political matter and should be dealt with politically. A swift Act of Parliament is overdue. The British people do not wish to be bound up in the fine arguments which lawyers make or strapped down by the fears of those who worry too much about what others think. They want a British Parliament to denounce an injustice, and not just to talk about it but to do something.

The author is Conservative MP for Chingford.

Woodrow Wyatt tells Europe to acknowledge the Anglo-American contribution to its defence

Thatcher's lessons for a perilous future

The "peace dividend" talked of in defence White Papers a few years ago never did exist and never can. Nuclear proliferation will not cease, however many pacts are signed. Biological weapons will become more fearful, more easily manufactured and more easily concealed. Once mankind invents a new weapon of destruction it is never given up, unless superseded by one yet more lethal. Mankind is like that.

When Baroness Thatcher has thought long and hard about interlocking problems, she invariably dissects them with precision and offers answers which command attention. This she did strikingly at Fulton. Much of what she said was obvious, but stating the obvious is highly original in a world which finds the truth uncomfortable.

Here we are with near madmen and dictators able to control populations by a combination of repression and perverted nationalism. Doubtless the Chinese masses approve of their Government's attempts to cow Taiwan by displays of military might. Fortunately, although Peking's rulers may raid the small islands close to China, they are too sensible to risk their worldwide trade by invading Taiwan proper. China is developing nuclear weapons fast and will not be restrained. Nor will the North Koreans, whose missiles may soon be menacing China and Russia.

The International Atomic Energy Agency, through utter inefficiency, has totally failed to halt Saddam Hussein's nuclear weapons programme. Iran either has or is on the verge of having them — and so are Libya and Syria. Military coups in the former Soviet Union could well put nuclear arsenals into recklessly evil hands.

For the West to ignore Lady Thatcher's insistence that we must have effective ballistic missile defence would be suicide. At rock bottom, what is "the West"? The United States and Britain are the two countries that can be relied upon to act in concert to thwart an impending disaster in time. To impose a common foreign and defence policy on the EU countries and to merge their armies would be calamitous. Germany, afraid and ashamed of its past, would be loath to agree to decisive action until too late, and France would concur.

The United States is probably

vulnerable to nuclear attacks from unexpected quarters now, and certainly will be before long. The Reagan Administration's claim that effective anti-ballistic missile defences were well on the way to completion was said to have been exaggerated as part of the strategy to convince Moscow that the Soviet economy could not sustain escalating nuclear competition. Nonetheless, the collapse of Soviet communism followed, and democracy began its shaky emergence. But anti-ballistic defences are still vital for the United States, Europe and now Russia, as is the permanent leadership of the United States in NATO. It would be madness to weaken NATO by injecting into it a confused new element of muddled EU command of national armed forces and national defence policies — as the inexperienced Jacques Santer, the European Commission President, wishes.

Lady Thatcher is right and timely

in warning that the EU deludes itself if it believes it can stand self-sufficient and alone. She wants NATO enlarged to include Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic, and to see it able to operate anywhere in the world as necessary. She does not exclude the possibility of Russia becoming a member of NATO, but at the same time the Eastern European countries now freed from Soviet communism should become members of the EU, within which they could expand their economies free of the punitive tariffs and trade restrictions now imposed by Brussels. The Franco-German axis, oblivious to history, is in practice an obstacle to an enlarged EU, because it would be more difficult, if not impossible, to control from the centre. Their creed is the antithesis of democracy: authoritarian rule by bureaucrats increasingly unresponsive to the wishes of those ruled. But history, even the most recent, shows that the obliteration of

national identities, far from promoting willing partnership, fuels intense resentment leading to its disruption. Parliamentary democracy is untidy, difficult to operate and frequently makes mistakes, but, as Sir Winston was wont to remark, the alternative is far worse.

Our partners in Europe should ask themselves which two large nations have the best and longest understanding of democracy, and be honest enough to give the right answer: Britain and the United States. Right now, the way Brussels behaves, under the thumb of Germany and France, does not feel democratic. Too many decisions which do not engage people's hearts are taken over their heads. Instinctively we know that the attempt to exclude the United States from Europe, to the extent even of restricting the showing of American films and television programmes, is profoundly wrong. It was Marshall Aid which restored much of Europe's economy and gave the Germans the chance to become an economic world leader. The EU will never prosper on a mixture of protectionism and autocratic socialism. Lady Thatcher got it right at Fulton when she urged a "transatlantic free trade area, enlarged to incorporate the Central European countries". Our continental friends seem not to have read, or perhaps understood, Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations*.

Her career is his opportunity

As women become breadwinners, men will learn to appreciate the non-financial work they used to do

Tomorrow night, against a rollicking background of hits from *Mary Poppins*, another nail will be expertly hammered into the coffin of the working woman's self-esteem. The BBC's *Modern Times* series offers us a cruel, brilliant little film about the relationships of three working women with their nannies. The women — ambitious, chic and vain — have already been castigated in print as "mothers driven by money", and the phrase "opulent neglect" has been used of their affluent style of delegated parenthood.

It is, of course, just another piece of wasp-on-the-wall TV. The film dwells glibly on an extreme, tiny minority of working women who have — as far as their children are concerned — lost the plot. The film-makers did not

over very many stones to find them: one subject is in PR, another in fashion, the third in fashion. Two are devastatingly Kensington in tone, squealing with fastidious horror at a nanny's having eaten a McDonald's breakfast. The third is a rag-trade executive who boasts of working 85 hours a week and employing two nannies per child, one for weekdays and one for weekends.

Despite their vaunted expertise in PR, all three are so silly that they allowed themselves to be interviewed about the stress of combining work and motherhood while lying on massage tables, sunbathing in Barbados, enjoying expensive girls' lunches without a child in sight or primping at the mirror. One sits at her dressing-table admiring stuff over her flawless face while delivering a plaintive commentary on the fact that nanny is downstairs reading the paper instead of talking stimulatingly to the child over breakfast.

The nannies despise them: watch out for Glasgow Carrie and the Dextro row. It is all good knockabout fun, and need not detain us further, except that since the nation will be giggling at these women all week it is a good moment to look at some real changes in family life. Did you know that according to the think-tank Demos, and government statistics, 30 per cent of British households al-

ready have a woman as main or sole breadwinner?

Unsurprisingly mothers obviously skew the statistic, but there is evidence that in couples it is no longer uncommon for the woman to earn the more. There are famous examples of this tilt of the seesaw: Cherie Booth earns perhaps three times what Tony Blair would earn as Prime Minister. But the trend goes right down to the household of an unemployed former river or miner whose wife has somehow found herself three part-time jobs which add up to nearly as much as he used to earn. Other research shows a slow erosion of men's employment and a steady rise in women's: not just because of equal opportunity policies, but because women, relatively new to the labour market, are flexible and willing to take service jobs. A man tends to say "I am an executive" or "I am a welder" and sulk for years on the dole if nobody wants one. A woman, even a trained one, is more likely to go out and clean a pub. As immigrants have

traditionally found, the advantage of coming from nowhere is that you seize your opportunities and have no dignity to lose. Today, the cheeky bootblack who founds a business empire is probably a girl.

The most obvious effect of such a trend must be to depress men. They have been depressed enough this past fortnight by doomy TV campaigns about low sperm counts and underachieving boys. The idea that women are starting to out-earn them and wear the economic trousers in the family could be the last straw. As Tony Parsons glumly wrote in this paper last week: "Once there was a time when men and women knew exactly what was expected of them. Men made money. Women made homes."

His perspective is very short. Men and women in European agricultural societies worked alongside one another and their children for centuries. Moreover, a cursory glance at the current rash of screen Jane Austen should remind us that depending on a rich wife is nothing new. The Willoughbys and Wickhams who prowled for heiresses were perfectly happy to live off them. So



Over-nannied state? One of the mothers featured in *Modern Times*

were those fairy-tale heroines who set off with a bundle on a stick and ended up marrying princes. Is there really much difference between marrying a woman who inherits money, and marrying one who inherits the talent to make it?

But because we have had a few generations in which men went out to work and wives did not, the idea of the high-earning woman (especially a mother) spreads great unease and leads to witch-doctoring films such as *Modern Times*. When a woman like Heather Rabbits, chief executive of Lambeth council, boasts of working so hard that she has not read her son — who is now 13 — a bedtime story since he was 18 months old, we cringe. Indeed, some of this unease is justified: if men go on as they are and women start aping them and bowing only to Mammon, there will be a whole set of altars left untended. Who

will prop up the community, pass on values to the children, ginger up the schools, weave together networks of friends and support the old and sick? Who will cook real food? Who will confront the returning hunters with the question, "Is what you are doing in business right, and kind, and just?" Who will humanise the world?

Usually when these questions are asked, they lead to the conclusion that women should get back into their pinnies, quick. That is not likely. Some women are not suited for home and community. They are better deployed out in the working jungle. But where women won't do it, somebody must. It is high time that a few of these threatened chaps decided to use their masculine vigour and intelligence to fill the vacuum. If Lady Macbeth cries "Unsex me here!" and dashes the baby carelessly from her bosom as she heads for the top,

someone else must pick it up. Its father, perhaps. I know of one woman who was promoted and began working late and talking of hiring a second nanny to cover evenings and weekends. Her husband promptly resigned his banking job, became a part-time consultant on a quarter of the money, and now works at home with his children under the desk and sits on the PTA committee. Madam was shocked at first, but slowly became grateful.

So, I suspect, do countless other women of all classes when they find themselves an essential breadwinner and discover that their partner is man enough to accept some "female" responsibilities. I am always irritated by the perennial female journalist's whinge about men not doing their share in family life. I could point you towards a large number of lower-earning families where men do plenty. If your wife's earnings are indispensable, you do not have to be what Tony Parsons calls "a female impersonator" to see what justice and humanity require of you. Women do not have a monopoly on decent feeling.

Indeed, some women are lured by the trash materialism of the day into behaving like the worst men. A couple of years ago in *The Guardian*, a woman breadwinner wrote that she had grown to despise her husband for being economically unproductive, even though he did a lot at home. She even became irritated with him at dinner parties for expressing political opinions, because "her money" had paid for the newspaper and radio batteries which enabled him to have opinions at all. She was turning into the worst kind of Victorian husband.

Still, as a congenial optimist, I suspect that if this trend for women to be main breadwinners continues it may be the saving of us all. Men are so bracingly arrogant, so free from boring tendencies to self-abasement. If, in the seasaw family, they find themselves at home minding the community, chatting to the children and making a hot meal for the returning wife, they will start to raise these tasks as the proud and worthy things they are. They won't creep around saying "I'm just a housewife", or talking down the "little job" which enables them to be at the school gate. They will reclaim the dignity of a life which puts people above profit. If we breadwinner-girls start getting the stupid idea that money is the only kind of contribution which counts in a family, these heroes will soon set us right. Cheer up, lads. Even if you lose the financial heights, up on the moral high ground there is plenty of space for pioneers.

Up in arms

THE NEWLY honoured great and good who are hoping to slip visual puns on their names or esoteric references to their lives into new coats of arms are to be disappointed. The Garter King of Arms has decided that coats of arms are becoming far too silly.

Jokes like Sir Harry Secombe's motto "Go On, Goon" and Sir Geoffrey Howe's wolf in sheep's clothing look likely to be the last of the line. The new Garter King of Arms, Peter Gwynn-Jones, is outlawing what he calls "dreadful design", and intends to be very strict with future drawings submitted to him at the College of Arms.

Garter, who took up the post last year, says he has seen some appalling heraldry. "I believe in good and simple heraldry," he says. "It is true to say that I lay greater emphasis on this than some of my colleagues or predecessors. I once told a Canadian corporation that its coat of arms would go down as a classic example of appalling heraldry."

He is being stern with clients who request hackneyed images such as lions, stags and birds of prey, but reserves his strongest

words for clients who submit badly arranged or outlandish designs. "Heraldry should never look like a badly arranged shelf on an antique stand in Portobello market. There are some coats of arms which give me nightmares."

Sir Cliff Richard, who is understood to want a cliff in his coat of arms, could get short shrift.



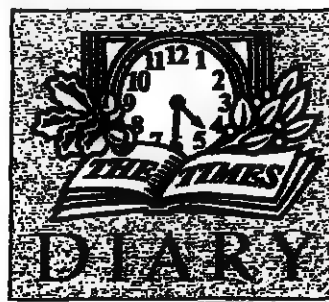
"You'll never believe this! A Chinese satellite landed on my cheque-book"

● The secret memo leaked yesterday from Conservative Central Office outlining the scale of the threat posed by Sir James Goldsmith's *Referendum Party* doesn't seem to worry the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke. One MP, in a vulnerable marginal seat, was alarmed to overhear the Chancellor saying that Goldsmith's candidates might get only two or three thousand votes in such constituencies. By my calculation that's 50 Tory seats.

New game

THE organisers of the Czech Open are considering an application to compete from one Ivan Lendl. However, the former world number one tennis player will not be handicapped by his loss of speed around the court. This is a golf tournament.

Lendl has earned himself full membership of the South Florida tour in America, and has already played in eight tournaments. He is still finding his form, and has failed to finish among the prize-winners so far. But British pro Peter Alabaster, who partnered him in America, says that legendary concentration could take him to the top in the end. "He is a very good player with the potential to be



a great one. I can tell he has got what it takes, but at the moment he tends to make a few silly errors."

Monkey biz

THE QUEEN is to be given an unusual escort on Friday when she opens the Royal Armouries Museum in Leeds. She will be led in by 60 Samurai sword-wielding Japanese warrior monks.

The monks, dressed in white robes, will join such luminaries as Robert Hardy, playing Sir Winston Churchill as usual, in the entertainment to celebrate the museum's international links. After the ceremony, the Queen will tour the £42.5 million museum, and take tea in the oriental section with the monks — who were invited because their shrine in Toshogu is the burial

place of Togugawa Ieyasu, who presented James I with two ceremonial suits of armour in 1613.

A spokesman for the museum stressed that the monks are part of the international spirit of the museum. "We have also invited the curator of the Kremlin museum to the opening, but we don't know whether he is coming or not."

Sabotage?

A RECRUITMENT drive for the RSPCA is being spearheaded by an unlikely band. The Duchess of Devonshire and Lord Mancroft are leading the hunt by writing to fellow members of the British Field



Traditionalist Duchess

Sports Society urging them to join the RSPCA immediately. Their plan is to kick out those they deem extremists in the organisation.

In their letter they say they are not attempting infiltration, but want field sport folk to sign up in time for the AGM in June, so that they can vote and "start to play a part in steering the RSPCA more towards its traditional role of caring for animals and away from animal rights".

The RSPCA senses trouble: "They are more than welcome to join us if they wish, but I think it is going to be difficult for them," says a representative. "We have a very strong anti-hunting policy."

Honour roll

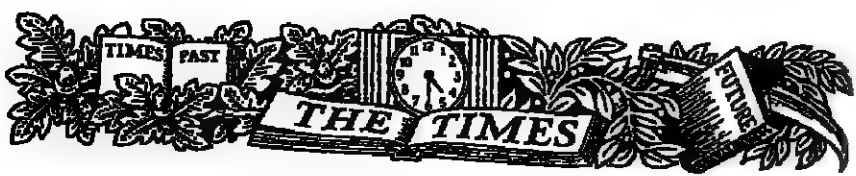
NICHOLAS SOAMES, the wicket-keeper of a minister, has been awarded cricket colours by his prep school 36 years after he left. The Armed Forces Minister was not the most agile pupil with bat or ball while at St Aubyns Preparatory School in Rottingdean, Sussex. However, he was presented with the cricket colours tie on his first return visit the other day, in honour of his subsequent achievements in the political field. "I was a very enthusiastic but incompetent cricketer," he confesses.



Soames: umpirical

● Organisers of last night's reception to celebrate Commonwealth Day at Marlborough House, attended by the Queen and the Prince of Wales, took the precaution of printing "1996" prominently on the invitations. In the past, I understand, former High Commissioners have tried to use out of date invitations to gain access. "We do find that the odd unwitting person tries to get in using old invitations," admits the Commonwealth Secretariat.

P.H.S



THE IRA'S CORNER

Progress is possible in Ulster, but not with Sinn Féin

A mood of realism, bleaker but better than the naivety of before, seems to mark the Irish peace process. No one can now be in any doubt about the course on which Irish republicans have, always, been set. The IRA's resumption of violence, and its uncompromising rejection last week of the offer of all-party talks prove that republicans are still happier bombing and threatening to bomb than persuading and conceding. The challenge now is to move away from the positions occupied in the past and give Ulster the stability it has been denied too long.

It is painful for those who invested so much in the IRA's good intentions to see their faith bloodily betrayed. Even after three bombs intended to inflict horrific civilian casualties the two Prime Ministers strained to offer Sinn Féin a path to inclusive negotiations. Last Thursday the IRA leadership responded in the republican newspaper *An Phoblacht*. Styling themselves "revolutionary soldiers" they pronounced that attempts to secure Sinn Féin's support for decommissioning and the principle of democratic consent were "a nonsense" and pledged to continue the armed struggle.

Even the most generous of moderate nationalists could no longer, in reason, discern any justification for talking to a movement driven by twisted dogma and murderous pathology. The Irish Prime Minister, John Bruton, told his Fine Gael party conference at the weekend that the IRA used the ceasefire to train for a resumption of war and commented: "serious engagement in a peace process means that you change your strategy as well as your tactics... this did not happen in the republican movement." These are melancholy words. After such knowledge what forgiveness?

But disillusionment should not lead to despair. There is, still, hope. All those who are committed to democracy must prove that they can work together. There are promising signs this week. Last night the Unionist leadership met the Irish Government in

Dublin; today they talk to the Northern Ireland Secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew, and on Friday they are expected at the White House for President Clinton's St Patrick's Day reception. Gerry Adams may still have a visa but the Unionists now have access. They should use it to sell a democratic solution.

An agreement which would be acceptable across communities in Ulster and which deserves the support of London and Dublin cannot be definitively discerned. But certain steps forward should be, unambiguously, agreed. The first is a recognition that Sinn Féin should not slip back into respectability after another IRA tactical ceasefire without proving that republicans are committed to peace. That means decommissioning before further discussions. Politicians should not temporise in the face of terror.

The second is the right of Ulster's people to decide Ulster's future. The all-Ireland referendum championed by John Hume's SDLP chips away at the democratic legitimacy of the Province that both governments have already guaranteed. And, while the UK has forsworn any selfish interest in Ulster, the Irish Republic, unfortunately, maintains a constitutional claim to the Province.

The way forward remains Ulster-wide elections. Championed by unionists and the UK Government, they were initially dismissed by republican apologists as a sectarian head-count which would polarise positions. Instead, they have brought John Hume and Ian Paisley together. An elected body would give Ulster's politicians the forum to find the agreement the majority committed to peace want.

A secure future for Ulster, ratified by its people, and defended by London and Dublin with unrelenting rigour is the most effective way of sending a message to republicans that violence will not work. The IRA has manoeuvred itself into a corner. It should be left there while democrats shape Ulster's future.

CLINTON AND TAIWAN

The West must stand firm against the threat from China

There was ugly hypocrisy in the warning given yesterday against American "interference" in matters Taiwanese, by Qian Qichen, China's Foreign Minister. The interference in Taiwan's affairs comes not from Washington, but directly from Peking. On Friday, it took a boorish, dangerous turn: three Chinese ballistic missiles were fired into waters near major Taiwanese ports. Although the exercise was designed to bully, not to kill, it has brought further loss of confidence in China's commitment to civilised international relations.

America has reacted by inadequate word and belated deed to China's missile "tests" off Taiwan. Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, called the Chinese actions "reckless" and "risky", and rumbled that there would be "really grave consequences" if the threats continued; and a couple of American aircraft carriers have moved closer to Taiwan, in a hesitant show of support for the apprehensive island. Yet there has been no word, so far, from Bill Clinton.

The threats of missile attack were made as long ago as the first week of February. Only sabre-toothed presidential criticism, and a "no frills" White House statement of why China's behaviour is beyond the pale, could portray accurately the seriousness of the situation.

Peking's provocation flows from two sources. The first is the presidential elections to be held in Taiwan on March 23; the second is the muscular battle within China itself between the contenders for Deng Xiaoping's mantle. Taiwan's elections should signal the country's emergence as a mature democracy. After years of unsavoury

repression — done in the name of Chiang Kai-shek — Taiwan is now close to being the most democratic place in Asia.

Its citizens, prosperous and well-educated, are rightly alarmed that China's economic reforms have been accompanied only by heightened repression. By their vote, they signal eloquently to China the political conditions on which any future reunification can take place. Neo-democratic Taiwan has announced that without political reform on the mainland, the "two systems" will be divided by more than just the Taiwan Strait.

The second reason for Peking's anger feeds hungrily on the first. Those pushing and shoving to succeed the Mr Deng have found Taiwan a convenient cause in which to display their patriotic credentials. The military is staffed in its upper echelons by tech generals, each of whom could pass for a Chinese Zhirinovskiy; and President Jiang Zemin has wooed them with a passion.

It would be folly, therefore, to treat lightly their threat to act against "chaos" in Taiwan. Western military strategists point out that in the event of a Chinese invasion, Taiwan would be a fierce adversary. China lacks the capacity to launch a successful amphibious operation against its well-fortified, strong-willed "renegade province". But the political consternation in Peking is at such a pitch — and we refer here to the highest levels — that simple military calculations could give way to other, sharper compulsions. This is why the West must raise the volume of its alarm. Peking has to be told now that Taiwan has a right to be left in peace. If it uses force, China will return once more, and firmly, to the status of pariah.

STAY COOL

Radio 1 is right to shun the babyboomers' favourites

When Radio 1 was born, in 1967, it was not a high fashion success. Nothing much changed for 26 years. Those who wanted to hear bands before they were popular were still forced to turn to pirate stations. Now, at last, Radio 1 has a Controller who understands what the station's remit ought to be: to play tracks from new, innovative groups, to be at the edge of fashion, to set trends and not be bland.

This has upset Beatles fans, who are cross that the band's banal new single, *Real Love*, is not on the station's playlist despite entering the charts at number four. To mollify them, Radio 1 announced yesterday that it would devote its "Golden Hour" to the band this morning, with the latest single being played at the end. Tellingly, the station's head of production, Trevor Dann, added: "we want our listeners to be able to hear *Real Love* alongside an hour of the Beatles at their best." Translation: the new track is the Beatles at their worst.

That is why it does not deserve to be on Radio 1's playlist. Long gone are the days when the station simply plugged the Top 20 singles, to the annoyance of teenagers who wanted something better to listen to. Trying to find reggae or rhythm and blues or rap or soul on Radio 1 was almost impossible when today's babyboomers were pop-pickers. Now that the station has changed for the better, the middle-of-the-roadsers should not be allowed to impose their tastes on the next generation.

When today's fortysomethings were young, only teenagers listened to pop music. Now millions under 30 do so. Radio 1 cannot, and should not, aim to satisfy them all. There is, to be sure, a gap now in the BBC's national stations between Radios 1 and 2. But the 25 to 50-year-olds do not need a Radio One-and-a-half. They are well catered for by BBC local stations and the commercial channels dominated by the Rolling Stones, the Beatles and 10cc.

A key justification for public service broadcasting is that it should do what the commercial stations do not do. Radio 1 must of course play Blur, Oasis, Pulp and Supergrass, as these are the most popular bands with its target audience. But it should also be trying to spot the Blurs, Oases, Pulp and Supergrasses of tomorrow. That is why it gives airtime to bands such as Garbage, Northern Uproar, Kenickie and Bis; and why it encouraged groups such as Radiohead and Bluetones to reach the premier division.

If Radio 1's audience is shrinking, Matthew Bannister, its Controller, probably has the mix about right. Young Britons want their own taste, not that of their parents. They want music to be judged on its merit not by the fatness of their elders' wallets. David Bowie's new single still deserves to be played (and is played) on Radio 1 because, it seems, he has an extraordinary capacity to remain cool, whatever the fashion of the day. The Beatles, sadly, do not.

Shadow of a doubt over small firms

From Mr William Poeton

Sir, Whether employees of the small-business should be denied access to industrial tribunals (report, March 8) is but an element of a more important question: should businesses be subject to the same regulations irrespective of size?

Big business and the unions will say that they should; the large companies will want universal application of the rules to ensure fair competition and unions will seek the same privileges for all their members.

The only dissenter would be the unemployed person, because his/her chances of obtaining work would be diminished.

The United States' employment-protection laws are largely similar to those in the UK, covering maternity leave, racial discrimination, minimum overtime payments, etc; the difference is that most of these regulations do not apply to businesses with fewer than 20 employees and annual turnover below \$50,000. Consequently the past twenty years has seen the unemployment level in the US at a constant 6 per cent whilst that in Europe has increased from 4 per cent to 16 per cent.

If governments really are serious about encouraging the small business sector to create employment they must allow it to get started with the minimum constraint.

Yours faithfully,
W. G. POETON
(President,
The Union of Independent
Companies,
17 Gillingham Street, SW1,
March 8.

From Mr Edward Norman

Sir, Employees of small firms tend to need more, not less protection from unfair dismissal. All that the current legislation requires of an employer is that he acts reasonably in dealing with employees. This is not a burden: it is part of good business practice.

Dismissal without good cause can blight careers. A hire-at-will and dismissal-on-whim workforce will not perform well. As a country we excel in people businesses and they cannot be run successfully on this basis. Fairness, loyalty and hard work are the hallmarks of successful industrial relations and economic success.

Michael Heseltine's proposal to go "back to the Victorian future" is a recipe for failure.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD NORMAN,
8 Lingfield Court,
Lingfield Road, Wimbledon, SW19,
March 8.

So many MPs

From Sir Russell Johnston,
MP for Inverness, Nairn and
Lochaber (Liberal Democrat)

Sir, Dudley Fishburn's letter (March 8) arguing for fewer MPs at Westminster and citing examples of Australia, the United States and Spain had only one flaw, but it was a glaring one.

At the end of his letter he couldn't resist a partisan stab at "the madness" of "Labour promises [with which, in this case, Liberal Democrats are associated] to create yet more professional politicians for Scotland and Wales".

He should perhaps be reminded that while Australia, the US and Spain all have central legislatures proportionately smaller than ours, they also have federal constitutions and state parliaments with entrenched powers greater than those presently proposed for Scotland and Wales.

Apart from his principal contention, with which I agree, Mr Fishburn inadvertently reminds us (and provides examples) of how comparatively centralised is the UK among the democracies.

Yours sincerely,
RUSSELL JOHNSTON,
House of Commons,
March 8.

Partners in funding

From Sir Anthony Jacobs

Sir, We have received several requests for substantial support for Millennium Fund projects and recognise that similar demands are being placed upon other charities and corporations. Due to the success of the lottery, it would seem that at least £1 billion will be required in matching funds (report, March 4), and this can only be found if many of those good causes which benefit at present have their funds severely reduced.

We do agree with the Millennium Fund's principle of private contributions towards these projects, but £1 for £1 is too much. We would suggest that for projects up to a value of £50 million the private sector contributes 25 per cent and for larger projects that it contributes 50 per cent.

The effect of this would be that for a project of £20 million, £5 million would have to be found, for £50 million £12.5 million, for £100 million £25 million and for £200 million £50 million. This scale of funding is probably affordable if spread over the next three years.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY JACOBS
(Trustee),
The Jacobs Charitable Trust,
9 Nottingham Terrace, NW1,
March 4.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Changing rules on longer sentences

From Ms Helena Kennedy, QC

Sir, The Home Secretary's plans to introduce mandatory life sentences for repeat rapists are another example of misconceived criminal justice policy. The Lord Chief Justice has rightly said (reports, March 7, 8) that Michael Howard's plans would cause injustice and would not work.

A minister professing concern for the victims of crime should consider that rapists facing automatic life sentences will have no incentive to plead guilty. They will contest the most clear-cut cases, subjecting their victims to further humiliation and trauma. As it is, rapes are contested more often than other charges because of the evidential difficulties in securing convictions.

In providing an answer to his critics, Mr Howard has cited the frequency of sex offenders getting out of prison and raping again. Thereby, he acknowledges that prison alone does not work.

The regime of mere containment fails to confront the underlying reasons for male violence. I hope when the Home Secretary comes to face the women of his party they will point out the damage this policy will wreak upon victims of sexual crime who are already so disadvantaged.

Yours truly,
HELENA KENNEDY,
Doughty Street Chambers,
11 Doughty Street, WC1,
March 8.

From the General Secretary,
Association of Chief Officers of
Probation

Sir, The wish to protect the public apparently lies at the heart of the Home Secretary's proposals to give significantly longer, or life, prison sentences to certain offenders. In our view the proposed changes would achieve little and could, in many ways, be counter-productive.

Intentionally or not, the impending White Paper signals a swing to retributive sentencing. It makes sense emotionally and, as most people at one time or other have been victims of

crime, politically, too. The test is whether it will work. Those with experience of offenders and prison think not.

Prolonged incarceration can prevent a few crimes by separating a criminal from the community, but nothing else suggests that excessively long sentences, with little or no parole, will encourage the offender to return as a law-abiding citizen.

The likely prospect is of overcrowded prisons, containing embittered prisoners with diminished opportunities for rehabilitation. This would store up problems for the future and make them more intractable.

Yours faithfully,
MARY HONEYBALL,
General Secretary,
Association of Chief Officers of
Probation,
212 Whitechapel Road, E1,
March 8.

From the Rector of Solihull

Sir, The Lord Chief Justice is right to resist minimum sentences for offenders. Last month I visited Samantha Slater, who is from Birmingham, in prison in Kerala, southern India. She is now 25 and in 1993 was caught in possession of cannabis. She was given a sentence of ten years for which no remission is possible.

The authorities in Kerala all agree that she is a model prisoner, has learnt her lesson and been punished enough and that she ought to be released to rebuild her life as a useful citizen, whilst she is young enough. Her appeals have been rejected because she was guilty of the offence and has been given the prescribed punishment.

I believe that repentance is possible even among those who commit crimes. Our penal system has to make some allowance for discretion and compassion as well as for punishment.

Yours faithfully,
PETER HAWKINS,
The Rectory,
Church Hill Road,
Solihull, West Midlands,
March 8.

Stalkers and the law

From Mr A. T. Lawson-Crutenden

Sir, In your leading article of March 5, "Stop the stalkers", you refer to the imprisonment of Anthony Burrows for three years, after he had pleaded guilty to inflicting "psychological grievous bodily harm" against Tracey Sant.

Burrows is the first defendant to be convicted of non-physical grievous bodily harm. As the Offences Against the Person Act was passed in 1861, this undoubtedly represents a milestone in its long history.

It has long been established law that it is not necessary to make physical contact with a victim in order to perpetrate an assault: it is enough that the victim is in fear of his/her safety as a result of the defendant's actions. However, I consider that there is a virtually unbridgeable chasm between perpetrating a protracted campaign of harassment and intimidation on the one hand and causing such psychological harm as to constitute an offence of causing GBH, which by definition has to manifest itself in "bodily" symptoms.

It is clear that harassment and intimidation constitutes assault in law. Burrows pleaded guilty to this offence but it is not clear whether the court

would have found him guilty had he contested the charge. The concept of non-physical GBH caused by psychological injury is a completely novel concept, and a matter which the courts will have to give very careful consideration to in the future.

Yours etc,
TIM LAWSON-CRUTENDEN,
Lawson-Crutenden & Co
(Solicitors and advocates),
17 Red Lion Square, WC1,
March 8.

From Mr Stephen Lowe

Sir, Your leading article of March 5 asserted that "Common law may be better than new law" for dealing with matters of stalking. I disagree.

This was a case where the defendant was convicted of causing grievous bodily harm to the victim. To bring such a case the victim must have suffered really serious harm to their health. What the police and potential victims need is an effective way of dealing with this type of offender long before such harm is suffered.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN LOWE,
10 Forest Road,
Annesley Woodhouse, Nottingham,
March 5.

A fishy business?

From Sir Derek Mitchell

Sir, American signal crayfish "are easy to catch and delicious to eat" (News in brief, March 6, later edition) also "invading the killer crayfish", Weekend, February 24. That these creatures have established themselves in some parts of the country nevertheless constitutes a problem. There are to be regulations banning them where they are not currently found.

For consumers this does not sound like a sensible policy. Defiance of

Brussels does not seem to arise. It may far rather than feed the special relationship.

The native crayfish which are to be protected do not have votes (though there may be the odd growler in a marginal constituency). Is it then just an example of regulating what cannot be privatised?

I find this puzzling.
Yours faithfully,
DEREK MITCHELL,
(Deputy Secretary, Ministry of
Agriculture, Fisheries and Food,
19 Holmby Road, Putney, SW15,
March 8.

Cricket debate

From Councillor A. L. Paley

Sir, Now that the England cricket team have finally been eliminated from the spuriously named World Cup, I trust that Michael Atherton will not become the sacrificial lamb as Lord's begins to find a way out of yet another deep hole into which it has allowed English cricket to plunge.

Atherton is the England "Test" captain. Test cricket is played over five days, by players in white using a red ball, rather than over seven or eight hours, by models out of a clothing catalogue whose only concession to the traditional white is the colour of the ball.

If this competition really does find the true world champions then will the next rugby union World Cup take the format of the Hong Kong sevens or the next football World Cup be decided by a five-a-side tournament in my local sports centre?

Business letters, page 29

Letters should carry a daytime
telephone number. They may be
faxed to 0171-782-5044.

Homosexuals and the Armed Forces

From Admiral of the Fleet
Sir Henry Leach

Sir, Inevitably the Secretary of State for Defence attracts a lot of stick about a lot of things. In fairness, therefore, he deserves to be applauded by all those with a sense of standards for his profoundly wise decision to continue to exclude homosexuals from the Armed Forces (report, March 5; letters, March 7).

No doubt the dismissed quarter (who should never have joined the Services if they did not like their moral standards and are now acting as a front) will now waste the time of the European Court of Human Rights. If, for whatever quirk of political (but hardly moral) correctness, that court were to find in favour of unnatural behaviour, it is to be hoped that no decent British Government would comply with its ruling.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY LEACH,
Winston Churchill House,
Winchester, Hampshire,
March 7.

From Colonel T. F. Moncur (ret'd)

Sir, Our Armed Forces are a modern, professional, all-volunteer organisation, and their efficiency rests on the trust and confidence that their personnel have in each other. They have given the clearest possible response to the current campaign: the advent of overt homosexuality in their midst is unwelcome.

Their reactions are founded on soundly practical reasons. Making grand pronouncements about how the military should accept the friction and violence to which Mr Marcus Walker refers in his letter of March 7 is the prerogative of the splendidly non-involved.

During the Second World War we had general mobilisation and anyone who could reasonably be called upon for active service was duly drafted. In the highly unlikely event of this ever recurring the same would probably happen again. In times of national emergency everyone is expected to play his part. In peacetime the Armed Forces are expected to perform their duties in a variety of trying locations, often without clear military terms of reference and in the full view of the media.

In these circumstances the mutual respect, confidence and loyalty our servicemen have in each other is vital if they are to fulfil their mission. They have made it plain how much these will be imperilled if homosexuals are admitted to their ranks.

In the face of any adverse judgment from the European Court of Human Rights I hope that the Government will back our Armed Forces and demonstrate more resolve than they did in the last encounter, which saw several perfectly healthy women receiving large sums of money in compensation for dismissal on grounds of pregnancy under terms which they accepted at the outset of their service. This money would have been far better spent on paying rightful pensions to our war widows.

Yours faithfully,
TOM MONCUR,
The Army and Navy Club,
Pall Mall, SW1,
March 7.

Clergy testing

From Mr Richard Beighton

Sir, Psychometric tests can help an employer to build a fuller picture of job candidates. However, they should be used only once those candidates have proved they meet the most important criteria.

On this basis there are many more fundamental steps the Church of England could introduce to improve the quality of its recruits (report, March 8). Questions like "Do you believe in God?" and "Do you believe the Bible?" would be a good start.

Yours faithfully,
R. BEIGHTON,
124 Thorhill Road,
Thames Ditton, Surrey,
March 8.

From the Reverend Julian Sullivan

Sir, If Jesus had used psychometric testing to choose his disciples the Gospels wouldn't make half such good reading today!

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN SULLIVAN,
St Mary's Vicarage,
42 Charlotte Road,
Sheffield, South Yorkshire,
March 8.

Wrong end of the stick

From Mr Peter Dennison

Sir, Notes for prayer meetings are not the only documents in which careful proof-reading can obviate embarrassment (Mr Philip Rayner's letter, March 5).

During my career with an airport operator, my favourite letter, from a respected consultant, simply read: "In my recommendations for protecting the seaward end of the runway, please delete 'strong cedar fences' and insert 'strong sea defences'."

Yours sincerely,
PETER DENNISON,
10 Shirley Drive,
St Leonards-on-Sea,
East Sussex,
March 6.

OBITUARIES

GROUP CAPTAIN CLIVE STANBURY

Group Captain Clive Stanbury, CBE, DSO, DFC, AFC, wartime bomber and Special Operations Executive pilot, died on March 1 aged 80. He was born on December 23, 1915.

AN OUTSTANDING bomber pilot during the campaign against the Axis in North Africa, Clive Stanbury also flew a number of missions for the Special Operations Executive (SOE), dropping into hastily improvised air-strips to liaise with the Maquis in the South of France, often in circumstances of great peril. He also performed similar services in support of guerrilla movements fighting the Germans in Yugoslavia and Greece.

In the jet age which followed the war, he was equally at home. At the controls of the English Electric Canberra bomber Aries IV on March 1, 1954, he made a pioneering jet flight over the magnetic North Pole. This provided data, which was valuable to subsequent airline operations, on high latitude navigational techniques. Later, in the same aircraft, he flew the 3,300 miles home from Montreal non-stop, arriving at his base at Manby, Lincolnshire, with only ten minutes' fuel left.

Clive Stanley George Stanbury was the only son of a senior accountant with the Great Western Railway. He was educated at Wellington School, Somerset. He had always wanted to fly, but this wish was opposed by his mother who would not give her consent for him to join the Royal Air Force. Instead, he qualified as an engineer with the GWR in 1938.

But gathering war clouds and the sudden desperate need for more pilots to man a rapidly expanding Air Force changed the situation and enabled him to fulfil his life's ambition to fly. Joining the RAF, he showed a natural aptitude as a pilot, going solo after only 2½ hours' instruction. The engineering skills he had acquired on the railways were put to good use, and in the following years of air operations he always personally checked his aircraft before each take-off. Qualifying as a pilot in March 1939 and posted to No 70 Squadron in the Middle East.

In the North African theatre he was awarded the DSO and the DFC for the part he played in leading numerous sorties against Axis armies in the desert. On one occasion when a Wellington bomber of his squadron had come down and belly-landed



behind enemy lines in the Western Desert, he determined to try to recover it. With a volunteer crew he drove through German positions in a captured German lorry carrying fresh undercarriage equipment. He and his crew reached the damaged plane, repaired it and flew it off more or less under the noses of the enemy.

Later he volunteered for cloak-and-dagger work and was given command of 624 Squadron (Special Operations Executive). Operating from a secret base in North Africa, he flew in arms and supplies for the Maquis in the

South of France. He also co-operated with Tito's Partisans in Yugoslavia and with the resistance movement in Greece. In February 1945 the Armée de l'Air, in the name of the Government of the new French Republic, awarded him the Croix de Guerre for "une remarquable contribution à la libération de la France".

Towards the end of the war Stanbury toured the United States to give lectures to American pilots on bombing strategy and talks to American Legion audiences about his covert missions in support of guerrillas

behind enemy lines. He was in the process of converting to fly US aircraft for the RAF support of America in the Pacific when the war ended.

After attending the Joint Services Staff College, he was posted to the Parachute Training School at Upper Heyford as chief instructor. Then, after a posting to Transport Command, he took part in the 1948 Berlin Airlift and later saw active service in Korea.

In 1953 he was an instructor at the RAF Flying College at Manby, and in 1954 was selected as captain of Aries IV, a Canberra bomber, for the first navigation proving flight by an RAF jet aircraft over the magnetic North Pole. This was to test the suitability of high latitude navigational techniques as the high speeds and altitudes expected to be flown by jet passenger services on the "over the top" route between North America and Europe.

For this flight the normally gleaming silver Aries IV was given blood red paint markings in profusion so that the aircraft might be easier to spot if it was forced to come down in the icy polar wastes. In the event no such disaster occurred; Aries IV accomplished her mission, flying the 1,000 miles from Churchill, on Hudson Bay, to the magnetic Pole and back without incident. But much useful high-speed navigational data was gathered en route.

For this Stanbury was awarded the Air Force Cross. Poignantly, his death was on the 42nd anniversary of the actual flight over the Pole.

After a tour in Singapore, where he was chairman of Combined Services Rugby (he had played rugby for Wasps before and after the war), and one at the Air Ministry, in 1960 he took command of RAF Laarbruch in Germany. He was appointed CBE in 1962 and ADC to the Queen in 1963.

He retired from the RAF in 1966 to Devon, where he pursued local business interests. He was a modest man who rarely spoke of his wartime adventures and many of those who came into contact with him were often totally unaware of his bravery. He maintained his connections with the RAF right through to his death. He was president of the local RAFA branch and also worked tirelessly for the RAF Benevolent Fund.

He was married in Cairo in 1943 to Rebecca Ransome, a nursing officer in the Queen Alexandra Imperial Nursing Service.

She predeceased him in 1994. He leaves one daughter.

THOMAS WATSON

Thomas Watson, CMG, MBE, Minister of Natural Resources, Uganda, 1955-56, died on February 16 aged 89. He was born on May 27, 1906.

TOM WATSON had a distinguished career in the Colonial Civil Service and was influential in the agricultural and economic development of Uganda in the decade after the Second World War. Widely respected for his expertise and judgment, he also served after retirement on a number of commissions of inquiry into different aspects of overseas economic development.

Thomas Yirell Watson was born in Bedfordshire. He came from a farming family whose success in breeding and rearing pedigree cattle was recognised both in this country and abroad. His father

William Watson had been appointed as a relatively young age to manage Leopold de Rothschild's Assot herd near Leighton Buzzard. When Watson was about ten years old, his father moved to Scotland as manager of the Edcote Shorthorn Company's farms in the Old Meldrum area, north of Aberdeen, and it was there that he completed his schooling at Aberdeen Grammar School. From there he went on to study agricultural sciences at Aberdeen University.

After graduating at Aberdeen, he spent a year at Cambridge University studying tropical agriculture and then two years at Pretoria University as Colonial Agricultural Scholar. After a brief period in India investigating livestock production, he joined the Overseas Civil Service in 1931, serving in Kenya first as

Agricultural Officer and later as Deputy Director of Agriculture.

In 1948 he moved to Uganda where he was appointed Director of Agriculture in 1951 and subsequently Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources, 1954-55, and Minister of Natural Resources, 1955-56. He was also a member of both the Executive and Legislative Councils from 1951 to 1956.

During his tenure of these offices he contributed significantly to the economic development of Uganda in the years leading up to independence. In recognition of his achievements he was appointed CMG in 1953. He had previously been appointed MBE in 1943 for his work in Kenya during the war years. He retired from the Overseas Civil Service in 1956 and settled in Bournemouth.

Watson was as busy in

retirement as he had been before and maintained an active interest in tropical agriculture. He served on a number of commissions of inquiry in overseas territories on agricultural and economic development, including those into land and population problems, Fiji, 1959-60; economic development, Zanzibar, 1960; and the cotton ginning industry, Uganda, 1962. A measure of the seriousness and dedication with which he undertook these duties can be judged from the fact that he surprised the local officials and other members of the Fiji commission by arriving two or three weeks early and walking from one end of the island to the other. During the course of this survey, and much to the amazement of everyone, he found coffee growing on top of the hills. How it got there is a matter of some speculation as



no one had any recollection of it being cultivated on the island.

As well as serving on these commissions, Watson was also an active member of his local community, becoming in time both chairman of the local Conservative Association in Bournemouth and secretary of the parochial church council, All Saints, Southbourne.

It is, however, for his love of gardening that he will be especially remembered by those who knew him. Throughout his life he maintained a devoted interest in gardening and right up until last summer was continuing to experiment with new varieties of seeds.

Tom Watson's first wife Margaret died in 1978. He stayed on in Bournemouth for a few years before marrying again and moving to Scotland, where he remained until his death. He is survived by his second wife Kay, and by a daughter from his first marriage.

PROFESSOR ARTHUR BEATTIE

Arthur Beattie, Professor of Greek at Edinburgh University, 1951-81, died on February 20 aged 81. He was born on June 28, 1914.

ARTHUR BEATTIE enjoyed talents which are not often found combined. He was a brilliant Greek scholar with a scientific bent and his administrative gifts almost brought him the principalship of Edinburgh University. He was on the orthodox — and wrong — side of the Linear B controversy, over the decipherment of Cretan script. His personality was outwardly dry and elusive but his friends found him loyal and clubbable. Their affection was conveyed in his nickname, "Linear Beattie".

Arthur James Beattie was born in Belize, the son of a mahogany buyer who came home to enlist in the Army for the First World War. Beattie was educated at Montrose Academy and Aberdeen University. He graduated with first-class honours in 1935 and then went to Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge. Part of the Classical Tripos was an option in modern Greek, and he thus was able to roam the ancient sites of the classical Hellenic world.

When war broke out he joined the Royal Artillery but was soon recruited by the Intelligence Corps. He attained the rank of major and was mentioned in dispatches. His scientific interests — he had briefly been a demonstrator in zoology after graduating from Aberdeen — helped him accurately to assess the formidable strength of the Atlantic Wall built by the Germans to cover the French coast. It was very largely thanks to his analysis of its composition that the section covering the Normandy beaches was able to be so effectively and severely damaged by Allied bombing raids in the period prior to the D-Day landings.

At the end of hostilities Beattie was put in charge of the de-Nazification of Göttingen University. There he befriended the physicist Max Planck. Göttingen was the first West German university to reopen and its Senate presented Beattie with an inscribed volume acknowledging his skill and sensitivity.

He returned to Sidney Sussex as a lecturer, and in 1951 accepted the chair of Greek at Edinburgh. He fought stoutly against the decline of the classics, and introduced the study of Greek literature in



translation. He also designed accelerated honours courses for those who had not studied Greek at school.

The chair of Greek at Cambridge did not come his way, as he had hoped. That ranked as a disappointment, with his narrow failure to be appointed Principal of Edinburgh in 1964. He had shown considerable administrative abilities as Dean of the Faculty of Arts, 1963-65, and was the preferred choice of the outgoing Principal, Sir Edward Appleton. However the University Court chose Michael (later Lord) Swann, then Dean of the Faculty of Science and later chairman of the BBC governors.

By this time the Linear B controversy was ten years old. The decipherment of the script, dating from the period from about 1450 BC when the Mycenaeans took over the Cretan palace settlements and dominated the Aegean area, had been published jointly by Michael Ventris and John Chadwick, who had attended Beattie's lectures at Cambridge.

Beattie was hostile to the decipherment from the start. He refused an invitation from Chadwick to take part in the work that was eventually published, in 1953, in the *Journal of Hellenic Studies*, rejecting

its conclusions on the orthodox grounds that the Mycenaeans were not Greeks and had been "adopted" as ancestors by later Greeks engaged in the invention of a mythology.

Beattie published his doubts in the same journal; by unfortunate coincidence Ventris, an amateur classicist, was killed in a car accident about that time — though the idea that this led to ill-feeling between his following and the orthodoxy of Beattie is discounted. Beattie persisted with his scepticism to the end, though earning his nickname from the fluent ease with which he could read the script. The decipherment is now generally (though not universally) accepted and scholars base on it a range of assumptions about the classical world.

For the last 30 years of his life Beattie lived in the New Club, Edinburgh. His main hobby was bird-watching, but he was often to be seen in the Scottish Arts Club, where he was a convivial companion. He was chairman of Morrison's Academy, Crieff, from 1962 to 1975, and governor of Sedburgh School, 1967-78. In 1965 he was made a Commander of the Royal Order of the Phoenix for his services to Greece.

He remained a bachelor.

VERGÍLIO FERREIRA

Vergílio Ferreira, Portuguese novelist and critic, died in Sintra on March 1 aged 80. He was born in Melo on January 28, 1916.

AT THE time Vergílio Ferreira came to maturity the situation in Portuguese letters was an extremely gloomy one. When he was only 18, Portugal's greatest poet since Camões, Fernando Pessoa, was patronisingly awarded a consolation prize for his *Mensagem* (Message). Protest against Salazar's Fascist-style Government — not to be overthrown until 1974, after Caetano had taken over the position of dictator — went under the name of Neo-Realism. But culture was very tightly controlled, and non-conformity was punished with prison sentences. Many of the best writers were in exile; they had been over-encouraged by the success of democracies elsewhere.

At his mother's wish, Ferreira attended a seminary in order to study for the priesthood. But he soon abandoned this, and acquired instead a degree in Classics from the University of Coimbra. By 1944 he was a schoolmaster

with a couple of novels to his credit, including *O Caminho Fica Longe* (1943, *It's a Long Way from the Road*).

His first mature novel, *Vagdo* (Boxcar J), was published in 1946. This work — which attracted considerable attention for the clarity and thrust of its writing — was in the social-realist mode then prevailing among writers dissatisfied with the Salazar Government.

Ferreira did not change his political ideas, but he did, interestingly, diverge from the general line being taken by his contemporaries. With *Mudança* (1949, *Change*), he became Portugal's leading existentialist novelist. Justly regarded as a major work, *Mudança* is unlikely to have yet found an English translator. In certain respects this complex and experimental book anticipated, by 13 years, the similar breakthrough in Spain, with Luis Martín-Santos's *Tiempo de silencio* (1962, *Time of Silence*, 1965).

In both cases, protest against tyrannical regimes remains a basic assumption, yet is firmly subordinated to art, and never becomes mere propaganda. Like Martín-Santos,

Ferreira's real strength lies in his subtle characterisation and in his psychological understanding.

In some of the successors to *Mudança*, Ferreira perhaps went too far, losing most of his readers in the process. *Nítido Nulo* (1971, *Neat Null*) is a case in point. Full of brilliant passages and insight though it is, it is nevertheless impenetrable. However, the temptation to withdraw into unintelligibility in such a hostile cultural atmosphere was almost irresistible. *Estrela Polar* (1962, *North Star*), for some the high point in Ferreira's output, conveyed what one critic called "an almost gnostic sense of alienation from reality" — and was a vivid account of what it was like to live under the repressive Salazar regime.

Ferreira was a noted literary and philosophical essayist and exponent of the postwar existentialist philosophy as practised by Jean-Paul Sartre. Indeed, he wrote a memorable introduction to a 1962 Portuguese translation of Sartre's *Existentialism is a Humanism*. It seems likely that at some time in the near future the best of Ferreira's work will be translated into English.

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Uniform car parking fees urged to aid town centre business

By BRIAN COLLETT

A NATIONAL policy that would make car parking charges uniform across Britain to give a fair chance to hard-hit town centre businesses has been urged on the Government.

Small traders already protest that out-of-town supermarkets and shopping centre retailers pay proportionately lower rates, thanks to the present assessment system, and lower rents.

They now feel at a further disadvantage because their customers have to pay town centre parking charges or are discouraged by a lack of parking space, while out-of-town shoppers can usually park free.

Jim Redman, the Forum of Private Business research officer, said: "We are seeing town centres decimated. What is more, if you see empty shops, an area becomes less attractive."

The forum has suggested an averaging-out of parking charges to the Environment Department consultation team now inquiring into traffic issues.

The submission includes proposals for some form of parking levy at out-of-town sites. One proposal for discussion is that local authorities could demand a toll for the use of approach roads. Another is that the shops could pay a lump sum to the local authority — possibly to be

regained through a parking charge or price increases on goods. In London, a survey for training and enterprise councils (Tecs) found parking problems and traffic congestion are the most quoted disadvantages of running a business in the capital.

Meanwhile, south London could soon have a new organisation to tackle traffic problems that are damaging business. The South London Tec and traders' representatives have met officials of London First Centre, which tries to bring business into the capital, to discuss forming the group.



"He gets you off the ground and I bring you crashing back down to earth"

Veronica Heath
meets a couple
whose love of
plants has grown
a thriving company

Kevin and Susan White, who took a lease on the neglected walled garden of an 18th-century mansion at Chesters, Northumberland, have turned it into a thriving business named Hexham Herbs over the past nine years.

Mrs White said: "We were looking for a nursery which we could build up by rebranding and expanding it with the emphasis on herbs and medicinal plants. The Romans grew herbs and plants extensively here, both for cooking and as sacred offerings to the gods and the garden actually lies 20 yards from Hadrian's Wall. Cottage garden plants have enjoyed a revival and we liked the possibilities for imaginative expansion."

Although the original idea had been to concentrate on herbs, the Whites said the garden itself has asserted its influence and they have developed herbaceous borders, keeping many of the original plants native to the area. The area is sheltered by deciduous woods creating a microclimate which now supports 900 cultivars and species of herbs and about 2,000 herba-



A living business: Kevin and Susan White at work in their Northumberland herb garden

ceous plants. A potting shed at the entrance to the walled garden is now a small shop selling herbal oils and teas, pot-pourris, dried herbs and flowers and a variety of pots. The Whites both work full time, employ one full-time worker, four part-timers in summer and several volunteers. When they opened the nursery, the Whites already had a friend in the trade, a gardener at a National Trust property in Cumberland and he was helpful while

they built a collection of herbs and plants. Mrs White trained in art at Oxford. "Seeing things with an artist's eye has been a bonus," she said. At Chesters they have laid down a knot garden and a Roman garden and last summer had 20,000 visitors. During winter, Mrs White promotes the garden by giving lectures on herbs and has also written a book on the subject.

Mr White is an authority on thymes and in 1988 his collection in

the garden at Chesters was recognised by the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens as the National Thyme Collection. He has established a computer database listing thyme plants with cross-references to their synonyms, linked to a photographic file. In 1992, the Whites' collection of marjorams was recognised as the National Origamum Collection.

Hexham Herbs is on 01434 681483

BRIEFINGS

Conflicting evidence on the number of business start-ups in 1995 has emerged. Barclays Bank believes that start-ups rose by 4 per cent, to 448,000, and forecasts a further increase this year, to 475,000. If part-time start-ups are included, the figure will top 500,000 this year, the bank says. People starting up from home now account for 41 per cent of all new businesses. The National Westminster Bank claims that only 335,000 businesses started trading in 1995, a 10 per cent fall.

A seminar on self-assessment for income tax will be held by Grant Thornton, chartered accountant, at Aston Business School, Birmingham, on March 19. Details on 0121-212 4000.

Small companies and industrial innovators will be among priority beneficiaries of 4 per cent annual interest subsidies on five-year loans from the European Investment Bank under a European Commission scheme in Northern Ireland and border counties of the Irish Republic. The Commission is providing £300 million for the loans, on offer until March 31, 1997.

The Association of Small Historic Towns and Villages (Ashtav) is asking members to report effects of edge-of-town supermarkets on their high street shops. Ashtav is testing public reaction through a questionnaire to members before deciding on any action. It adds that the supermarkets may cause an increase in traffic and pollution and encourage dependence on cars.

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Ever thought of starting your own business? **Bob Riding** reports on an increasingly popular way of doing that — with support

In the name of the franchise



Brody Sweeney, right, gives Nigel Thurlow, a Royal Bank of Scotland franchise manager, a taste of O'Brien's sandwich bar

Could you run a sandwich bar? How about a photographic studio, pizza parlour, petrol station or recruitment agency? You may think you could, but how much do you know, for example, about buying stock or chasing debtors?

One way of minimising the risk of starting a small business is by buying a franchise. Franchised outlets — with sales running at £5.9 billion a year, according to the latest BFA/NatWest survey — are now big business in Britain. There are 474 recognised franchising companies (franchisors) and about 25,700 people who have their own franchised business (franchisees).

Franchising enables you to run your own business under the name of the franchise, in accordance with its business system. The franchisor will train you and hold your hand every step of the way because his or her success depends on your success. His income, apart from the initial fee you pay to join the franchise, comes either from a percentage of your turnover or perhaps, where he is supplying the products you sell, from a mark-up.

The number of exhibitors at this year's British Franchise Exhibition in London has more than doubled. At the show, at the Wembley Exhibition Centre, free seminars will explain the franchise system. These will be under the direction of

Brian Smart, the executive director of the British Franchise Association (BFA), the self-regulatory body which acts as the watchdog of franchising. The show is sponsored by the BFA, in partnership with the CBI. The five leading franchise lending banks — NatWest, Royal Bank of Scotland, Lloyds, Barclays and Midland — have taken stands, as has the Department of Trade and Industry.

The big attraction at Wembley is the wide diversity of businesses. You can, for example, pay £10,000 to £15,000 to start a franchise run from home, or £50,000 to £100,000 for a restaurant or retail business.

You can usually borrow a lot of the start-up costs and initial working capital from the banks. Do not be tempted to overborrow.

Some franchisees are making their first appearance at the exhibition. They range from Adwork (discount vouchers to promote local shops and tradespeople) to Material World fabrics and furnishings retailers, and two sandwich "retail concepts", O'Brien's Irish Sandwich Bars and Schlitzsky's Deli, a newcomer from America. O'Brien's — based on a chain of franchised shops in Dublin — has been running a successful British pilot at Crawley in West Sussex.

Pierre Victoire, a French bistrot-style restaurant franchise, has grown to a chain of 92 units, based



Graham Kerr, left, a Starlog franchisee in Bromley, south London, and Gavin LeFleur, his store manager

on the simple philosophy of serving good food and wine at affordable prices. Other exhibitors in the catering category include Domino's Pizza, the Canadian Muffin Co and Donut Magic, an Australian system.

The retailing franchises at the show range from Esso petrol stations to newcomers such as Starlog (retailers of science fiction and cartoon character merchandise) and two pawnbroking and second-

hand chains, Cash Generators and Cash Converters. Esso hands over its petrol stations to its franchisees on an agency basis so the entry level is low. Some sites are available for only £15,000. Esso supplies the fuel and the operator gets a commission on sales.

Select Appointments and the Travell Employment Group will be at Wembley to seek franchisees for their recruitment agencies. Select provides permanent and tempo-

rary personnel in the office, industrial and catering fields.

The Humana International Group specialises in executive recruitment and has opened 50 franchised branches in the past three years.

© The author is editor of Franchise World.

© The British Franchise Exhibition will be open on Friday from 10am to 5pm and on Saturday from 10am to 4pm: tickets £10. Details: 0171-727 8400

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LONDON
Wembley Conference Centre,
Friday 15th (10am-5pm) &
Saturday 16th (10am-4pm) March 1996
EDINBURGH
Royal Highland Centre,
Friday 26th (10am-5pm) &
Saturday 27th (10am-4pm) April 1996
MANCHESTER
G-MEX Centre,
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Visit The British Franchise Exhibitions, the UK's leading quality franchise forum, meet the UK's leading Franchisees and attend our free seminars programme.
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Players from struggling Premiership clubs outshine more expensive colleagues

Shipperley's score shows value of the unsung hero

As the FA Carling Premiership race enters the home straight, most eyes are focused on the big three: Newcastle, Manchester United and Liverpool. With the striking talents of Ferdinand, Cantona and Fowler (a mere snip at £23.5 million for the three) on display, the title is far from decided.

But for the Interactive Team Football (ITF) managers there are more profitable places to go looking for talent. The likes of Southampton, Manchester City and Coventry have hardly made the headlines this season, but that is no reason to ignore them.

Those with more faith than cash could have done worse than trawl through the lower reaches of the Premiership in search of points. A mere £2.5 million could have bought Neil Shipperley who so far has amassed 50 points for Southampton. It may not have guaranteed his club protection from relegation, but it is a better record than such star names as Ian Wright and Dennis Bergkamp, both of whom cost £7.5 million and have notched up around a meagre 40 points.

Then there is Shipperley's team-mate, Jim Magilton. He cost £3 million and is one of the highest midfield points scorers in ITF with 46. Or if that is too rich for your blood, a mere £1.5 million would have bought Georgi Kinkladze from Manchester City who has earned 42 points so far. Either way, they make Lee Sharpe (£3 million and 33 points) and Glenn Helder (£4 million and 25 points) look like expensive indulgences.

And for the teams struggling at the foot of the Premiership, there is still everything to fight for. Blackburn may be safe as houses sitting in the middle of the table but their season fizzled out a long time ago. Compared to QPR, desperate for a point wherever they can find it, motivation could be a problem.

But the trick to raiding the lesser clubs is to buy wisely.



Only in some departments are there bargains to be had. When it comes to defence you get what you pay for. Anyone who thought Bolton's Keith Brannagan was a good buy at only £500,000 must be sick as a parrot. He has conceded 58 goals and a staggering 73 points. When the going gets tough, the tough go shopping. If your team could be doing better, with your players lacking in form and fitness, you can move into the transfer market to improve your fortunes. ITF has a transfer system that allows you to change up to two players each week. Which player you want to offload and who you replace him with is

up to you, although you must replace the outgoing player with one from the same category (ie, a full back with a full back) and keep within your £35 million budget.

The ITF transfer system also allows you to adjust your team if one of your players is actually transferred out of the FA Carling Premiership. He would then no longer be eligible for ITF and would have to be replaced. Any overseas or Endleigh Insurance League players who move into the Premiership during the season will become available for transfer.

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the 0891 333 331 line during the times given. Calls will be charged at 39 pence per minute cheap rate, 49 pence per minute at other times. If you are calling from Ireland, you must call 004 499 020 0631 and you will be charged at 58 pence per minute at all times.

When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team value still falls within your £35 million budget and does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the £50,000 prize or the monthly £500 prize.

With ITF, not only are you pitting your selectorial skills against other readers of *The Times*, you are also matching your wits against those in the know. With the support of the Professional Footballers' Association, Premiership players have entered sides of their own, and Keith Curle, of Manchester City, gives his selection on the opposite page. Like him, you may spend £7.5 million on Tony Yeboah—but will he do better than cheaper alternatives?

All matches in the Premiership and those in the FA Cup involving Premiership clubs count and your players and manager win and lose your points. With Kevin Kickers narrowly in the lead, it is time for you to delve into the transfer market?

□ All transfer queries regarding *Interactive Team Football* should be directed to 0171 757 7016. All other inquiries can be made on 01582 488 122.



Kinkladze has proved one of the bargains of the season in ITF, amassing 41 points despite a price tag of only £1.5 million

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF

All FA Carling Premiership and FA Cup matches in the 1995-6 season count for points. Every goal and penalty counts.

POINTS SCORED	
Goalkeeper	4pts
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts
Score goal	1pt
Full back/Central defender	3pts
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts
Score goal	1pt
Midfield player	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	2pts
Score goal	2pts

POINTS DEDUCTED	
Goalkeeper	1pt
Concedes goal	1pt
Full back/Central defender	1pt
Concedes goal	1pt
All players	3pts
Score goal	1pt

* Must have played for 75 minutes in the match
* 30p cheap rate, 49p other times. Rep. 58p



HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN ITF

Call 0891 333 331

Calls cost (per minute) 39p cheap rate, 49p other times. Rep. 58p

If calling from the Republic of Ireland, call 004 499 020 0631

You can make transfers only by telephone using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need your ten-digit selector's PIN, which must be tapped in and not spoken. Follow the simple instructions and use the players' five-digit codes.

The line is open from 8am on Tuesday until 11am on Saturday from 8am on Saturday to 11am on Sunday and from 8pm on Sunday until 3pm on Monday. If there are midweek matches, the line will also close at 3pm on the day of the match (or matches) and re-open the following day at 8am.

You may make up to (but no more than) two transfers a week. Each transfer is a separate transaction and you must sell a player before you can buy one.

A player transferred out of your team must be replaced by a player from the same category - for example a full back for a full back.

When purchasing a player you must ensure that the team value still falls within your £35 million budget (even if your next transfer would result in an overspend) and does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The score of the player transferred out is taken at the time of transfer; he then comes to score for you.

Player Out

Club

Player In

Club

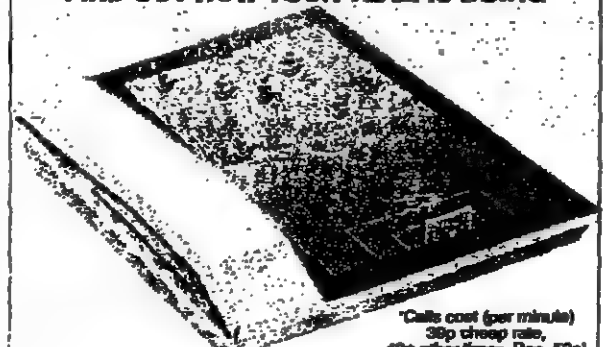
THE WEEK'S TRANSFERS IN ITF

Code	Player	IN	Club	Value
21505	M. Hottiger	IN	Everton	£3m
41413	I. Durrineau	IN	Wigan	£4m
51307	R. Bisher	IN	Sheff Wed	£2m
Code	Player	OUT	Club	Value
20602	M. Hottiger	OUT	Newcastle	£3m
40404	P. Stewart	OUT	Liverpool	£1.5m
40706	I. Durrineau	OUT	Tottenham	£4m

THE LEADING 250 SELECTORS IN INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL

Pos	Name	(Player's name)	Pts
1	Kevin Kickers	(K James)	581
2	Jones Boys Six	(M L Jones)	558
3	Gohls Gode 66	(Mr S Gohls)	525
4	Teddy Pies	(Mr S Gohls)	520
5	Brown's Buds	(Mr D Conroy)	520
6	Short And Stubbs	(K Booth)	518
7	Shaw Lions 8	(S Bramer)	518
8	Laytons Lions	(Mr F Layton)	514
9	Apollon 2	(S Lazzardo)	513
10	Phycos And Smiths	(K Booth)	512
11	Fair Fair Flapjack	(C Woodward)	510
12	Shore Violes	(H Brasher)	509
13	Jessicas Darlings 4	(Mr A Nadeau)	508
14	Burnell United	(R Sanham)	505
15	Jones Boys Four	(L Jones)	505
16	Langton Longshots	(J Ward)	504
17	Esmerly	(Mr P Glass)	502
18	Kleppars Five	(E Kirby)	501
19	KP Fantasy Team 4	(K Patel)	500
20	Nirvana FC	(Mr J Donovan)	500
21	Nobby One	(A Brown)	500
22	Tommy Cockles XI	(Mr P Johnson)	499
23	Shaw Lions 5	(S Brewer)	498
24	Peroys Progress	(Mr Fensich)	498
25	Justifines	(A Kent)	498
26	The Likely Lads	(S Pedder)	495
27	Nights Right Foot	(Mr D Pidal)	495
28	The Good Bad & Ugly	(K Booth)	495
29	Turners Esters	(J Nicholl)	495
30	Dwayns Drabblers	(P Turner)	495
31	Rowles Supers	(A Philcox)	495
32	The Mind Boggles	(P Sutton)	495
33	Monster Monster	(Mr P McDowall)	495
34	Pursell Rangers	(Mr P. Parliel)	495
35	Nobly Nial	(F Macdonald Pursell)	495
36	Shaw Lions 1	(A Brown)	495
37	County Pies A	(S Brewer)	495
38	Turners Esters 2	(J Hunt)	495
39	Nats Lions	(P Turner)	495
40	Strangers	(N Brewer)	495
41	Wotnosheer	(Mr G Banks)	495
42	Beet Transmorm XI	(K Booth)	495
43	Beagles Buds	(M Podaur)	495
44	Rescue City 2	(Mr J Stidge)	495
45	Baf's Team	(J Sanderson)	495
46	Shaw Lions 3	(S Ghuman)	495
47	March Pats	(S Brewer)	495
48	Alkile	(Mr M McGovern)	495
49	The Wise One Too	(Mr A Ford)	495
50	Tony's All Stars	(A Nelson)	495
51	Jeansend 1880	(A Boyland)	495
52	Confronting Eleven	(S Murray)	495
53	Burney's Bobs	(S Evans)	495
54	Paros United	(T Burns)	495
55	Doug's Desperados	(Mr A Hewitt)	495
56	The Conjurors	(Mr D F Richardson)	495
57	Shaw Lions 2	(Mr D J Farmer)	495
58	Burney's Bobs	(S Brewer)	495
59	Jeffy Thistle	(S Blane)	495
60	Shaw Lions 4	(J Bruce)	495
61	Shaw Lions 7	(S Cole)	495
62	Twilight United	(S Brewer)	495
63	The Living Dead	(P Dilworth)	495
64	Adams Man Or God 1	(T Steadon)	495
65	Tour De Force	(R Pile)	495
66	Sans All Stars	(C Cuttaz)	495
67	Sly Blue Voyles	(J Allen)	495
68	Top Heavy?	(R Foster)	495

FIND OUT HOW YOUR TEAM IS DOING



Call the ITF checking on 0891 774 796

Check your points total and your ranking. You need a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone) and your ten-digit selector's PIN. The line is open from noon today.

Pos	Name	(Player's name)	Pts
70	Norman	(T Sigworth)	474
71	Quinton Forest	(J Baker)	474
72	Good Times United	(Mr T Stabelford)	474
73	Westabbs Utd 3	(D T Smith)	474
74	The Magicians	(A Craggs)	474
75	Eggs Whan	(Mr D Werner)	474
76	Boling Bolog Buggy	(M Parliel)	474
77	Cameron Athan	(Mr J R Reader)	474
78	Enns Men	(N Doyle)	474
79	No Sun Today	(N Webb)	474
80	York Rangers	(J J Ruff)	474
81	Jordans XI	(Mr A G W Whyte)	474
82	Sparty	(P Samard)	474
83	The Locks	(M Riebel)	474
84	Wade	(D Lock)	474
85	Don Shuter 6	(Mr A Newkassy)	474
86	Purple Shutes	(D Shuter)	474
87	Andrew's Alfsters	(N Richard)	474
88	DMO 4	(Mr A Suggitt)	474
89	Charles Ducks	(D McGregor)	474
90	Nippers	(T Callan)	474
91	JRFC 2	(K Hughes)	474
92	Farmly Flyers	(J Haddes)	474
93	Husling Boms	(A Norton)	474
94	The Black Knights	(P Benilton)	474
95	Barys Army	(R A Green)	474
96	Vesuvio	(J P Barry)	474
97	Its A Mugs Game	(G Batchelor)	474
98	Baric Thistles	(K Booth)	474
99	Albion's Team	(C Nicol)	474
100	Warren Wizards	(I Haddes)	474
101	Long Drive	(A Buzide)	474
102	JK's Dolphins	(I Parler)	474
103	Play Prows	(M Corless)	474
104	Who Needs Mark	(J J Kitchen)	474
105	Bushill Seabers	(Mr I Platt)	474
106	Real Madras FC 2nd	(N Persich)	474
107	DM 001	(Mr C Alvobro)	474
108	Rampage Rovers	(P Bradley)	474

Pos	Name	(Player's name)	Pts
111	Metro Utd.	(J Sanderson)	468
112	DM 003	(D McGregor)	468
113	No Fear Utd	(G Saunders)	468
114	Gulls Hero FC	(E Scaletta)	468
115	Jacobson FC	(Mr A P Jacobson)	468
116	Well Sals	(A Coady)	468
117	Dennis Lilies Utd	(D Strachan)	468
118	Only Can Server	(M McKown)	468
119	Titanical Tomatoes	(D Chamberlain)	468
120	Orbita Bruchas	(P S Brocum)	468
121	Carling XI	(P Parlo)	468
122	Forges Fory	(P Simpson)	468
123	Francis Colwell FC	(F Colwell)	468
124	Good Diggers	(C Stacey)	468
125	Scot Utd	(B Scoblick)	468
126	Joeymym	(A Jordan)	468
127	Kleppars Three	(E J Kirby)	468
128	Ton's Tomatoes	(R Tor)	468
129	Partick Thistle	(C Nicol)	468
130	Boyd's Benders	(M Boyd)	468
131	Elwan For Mark	(Mr S Subala)	468
132	Wallace & Gromit FC	(Mr S Hyams)	468
133	The Rabbits Connect	(G Weiss)	468
134	Don't Make Me Laugh	(M Corless)	468
135	S Express FC	(J Collett)	468
136	The Dream Team	(S O'Toole)	468
137	Suburbi Utd	(M Larkham)	468
138	Le Socios	(I Aldous)	468
139	Dennis Storms FC	(P McCauley)	468
140	Gibbins Terry Mark	(T Gibbins)	468
141	Rescue City	(D Shuter)	468
142	Pennelwick Pupils	(J Peller)	468
143	West Ham Alliance	(P Cook)	468
144	Victoria Vastals	(D Ginter)	468
145	Red Star Richmond	(S T Glenville)	468
146	A Total Flop	(D Thandi)	468
147	Chip N Dale XI	(Mrs E L. Arowasith)	468
148	The Minde Fbld	(Mr J Danwell)	468
149	Razzor's Raiders	(R A Knowles)	468
150	110 Percent	(M C Doherty)	468
151	Reading Club Harrow	(G Williams)	468
152	Albionians	(S Shand)	468
153	Pig In A Pole	(Mr J Weiss)	468
154	Overhill Rovers	(Mr M James)	468
155	Pinkie Make Pines	(Mr D J Chopping)	468
156	Hoglar Worin	(R Roberts)	468
157	Rescue City	(A Poole)	468
158	Sevens FC 4	(J Sanderson)	468
159	Richpud Utd	(S Adams)	468
160	Badam F	(Mr R M Thomas)	468
161	P-Z Perfect Team FC	(Mr P Zainababadi)	468
162	Wembaes Stars	(E Kirby)	468
163	The Select Few	(A P Harris)	468
164	The Mighty Danston	(S Davison)	468
165	Bull Around Las	(D Hall)	468
166	Field Reserves	(J Progan)	468
167	Bazzor's Raiders	(R Carlwell)	468
168	The Gentleman	(R Bird)	468
169	I Hate Football	(E Greenick)	468
170	Wings Utd	(S Lum)	468
171	Headless Chicken	(A Ham)	468
172	The Doug Hutchins	(N Barty)	468
173	Shaw's Scores	(Mr Nancy)	468
174	Accrington Otis	(R Triller)	468

175	Keppara Crusaders	(S Arncliffe)
176	Bokdam United	(P Middlewick)
177	Jason Lam Rules	(T Rosa)
178	Whitehouse	(Mr J Albertson)
179	Partick Thistle	(C Nicol)
180	Street FC	(S Bartlett)
181	Lemonies	(Mr P Gregoriot)
182	Selling Golden Pines	(G Sullivan)
183	The Fifty Grinders	(R N Smith)
184	Millen Marvels	(M Fanning)
185	Joe Royles Wink 3	(T Gamage)
186	Enany Bee	(E Burkinshaw)
187	She's Dirty Dozen	(S House)
188	DOH 2	(Mc Corless)
189	Money Money Money	(N Wilson)
190	Moneybags United	(P Eldridge)
191	Goballa Code 73	(Mr B Gohli)
192	Abernury Villa	(J S Dhesi)
193	Eijou	(M Minasian)
194	Prosty's Angels	(R Snow)
195	Shimshu Adam	(R Sanders)
196	Jon Easneys Dornier	(Mr J Parkinson)
197	Mark XI	(Mc Lawrence)
198	Northbank Cardigan	(S Smith)
199	Brillo Boys	(C Timson)
200	Abergavenny Rovers	(S Smith)
201	Seldom United	(Mr T Arncliffe)
202	Dazed And Confused	(Mr T Stephenson)
203	Jamal AFC	(G Ogurn)
204	Randy Rovers	(P Phillips)
205	Dorothy's Dream	(M Matthews)
213	Old Turf	(Mr J Ratcliffe)
214	Dublin Bobanians	(G Brannigan)
215	Fools XI	(P Turnstall)
216	Not OPR	(Mr P Sammon)
217	Just For Kicks Unite	(T Wilson)
218	The Sinking Ship	(T Blythe)
219	JRFC 12	(J J Roff)
220	Hells Angels	(H Thompson)
221	Grove Rovers	(T Townsend)
222	Styke The Limit	(B Cox)
223	Kings Kickers	(G Sutton)
224	Yarm XI	(J Rogers)
225	The Phantoms	(Z Mohammed)
226	Totteridge United	(D Seal)
227	Inter Adagio	(S Sleas)
228	Red Star Wigan	(Mr P Casterton)
229	Joe Royles Wink 2	(C Walker)
230	Arncliffe Shanks FC	(A Strickland)
231	Broom United	(N Whistley)
232	The Rockers	(N Patel)
233	Action Thrillers	(S Warren)
234	Clockwork Lemnos	(J Rabi)
235	Hyperbarics	(J Whitfield)
236	Ram Jam Ninetown	(D McGregor)
237	DNI D02	(D Rhoades)
238	Egerton Park	(J J Roff)
239	Stapely Unit	(J J Roff)
240	JRFC 12	(J Graham)
241	MI Stars	(—)
242	Clean Sheet XI	(Mr I Rawlinson-Smith)
243	Kris P Crunchers	(C Palmer)
244	New Babes Elyen	(Mr I Gowman)
245	Harrington Inter	(Mr D Lovell)
246	Tanners United	(N Lane)
247	Fullham Second XI	(Mr K Browne)
248	Adams Man Or God 1	(R Pies)

The players' overall and weekly scores and their values if you are considering the transfer option

Code	Name	Team	Pos	Wk	Av
10101	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	5.00	0	-8
10102	B Mims	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	-1
10201	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00	+5	+27
10203	A Cole	Manchester United	2.50	0	0
10301	M Crossley	Nottingham Forest	2.50	-1	-22
10302	T Wright	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	0
10303	A Fells	Nottingham Forest	1.50	0	0
10401	D James	Liverpool	3.50	+5	+42
10402	A Warner	Liverpool	0.25	0	0
10501	J Lukic	Leeds United	3.00	+4	+1
10502	M Beesley	Leeds United	0.75	0	-9
10601	P Smick	Newcastle United	3.00	-1	0
10602	M Hooper	Newcastle United	1.00	0	0
10603	S Hishop	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+4
10701	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	-1	+15
10702	E Thorstvedt	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0	0
10801	A Roberts	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	-7
10802	S Dykstra	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	0	0
10803	J Sommer	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	-10	-46
10901	H Segers	Wimbledon	0.75	-3	-7
10902	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	1.50	0	-38
10903	P Heald	Wimbledon	0.75	-3	-11
11001	B Grobbelaar	Southampton	1.50	0	0
11002	D Beasant	Southampton	0.75	0	-20
11101	D Kharine	Chelsea	2.50	0	+8
11102	K Hitchcock	Chelsea	1.00	-3	-3
11201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	-1	+21
11202	V Bartram	Arsenal	0.50	0	0
11301	K Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	-41
11302	C Woods	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	-5	-13
11401	L Mladkovic	West Ham United	2.50	-5	-8
11402	L Sealey	West Ham United	0.50	0	0
11501	N Southall	Everton	2.50	-3	+2
11601	J Keaton	Everton	0.75	0	0
11602	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	-3	-29
11701	J Folan	Coventry City	0.75	0	0
11702	A Dibble	Manchester City	2.50	0	-35
11703	E Immet	Manchester City	2.50	0	0
11801	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	2.50	-5	-26
11802	M Oakes	Aston Villa	0.50	0	+28
11901	A Miller	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	0
11902	G Walsh	Middlesbrough	0.75	-3	-21
12001	K Branagan	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	-73
12002	A Davison	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	0



Curle wishes that Ball, his manager at Manchester City, had £35 million at his disposal like ITF managers

A big shot in the City

Keith Curle, a centre back for Manchester City, talks about his ITF team's season

SO FAR, Beech Hall United — named after my children's school — are sitting around mid-table in the PFA Interactive Team Football (ITF) league and I think I will settle for that position at the moment. He would also settle for having a spending limit of £35 million.

The first thing I was looking for in ITF was value for money. The spending limit does not go very far when you have a whole team to buy, and building the squad is difficult when you look at the price of the strikers and the goalkeepers. Those are the two most important positions in the team, so that is where I spent most of my money.

David Seaman set me back £5 million but he is worth it. He has been scoring points consistently throughout the season, keeping clean sheets for Arsenal. Tony Yeboah was not cheap either, but has already scored 19 goals. He is an excellent striker, you only have to look at some of the goals he scored at the start of the season. The only doubt over picking him for the side came when he went to the African Nations Cup, which meant he was away for a few weeks and not scoring any points.

I also only picked people I liked as players and I got a bargain with Neil Shipperley. He cost a third of what I spent on Yeboah and is my top points-

scorer. Even though Southampton are not doing well, he is still a very good player and if I had as much money as I wanted I think I would have him alongside Les Ferdinand as the striking partnership. If money really was no object, I would also have Ginoia.

Once the attack was sorted out, I went for full backs from good defensive sides — Neville, from Manchester United, and Barton, from Newcastle United — and tried to put together an attacking mid-field. That did not work out according to

CURLE'S SELECTION

Goalkeeper: D Seaman (Arsenal) / £5m (Man Utd) / £2.5m (Newcastle)
 Full backs: G Neville (Manchester United) / £2.5m (Sheff Wed) / £2.5m (Sheff Wed)
 Centre backs: D White (Leeds) / £2.5m (Leeds) / £2.5m (Leeds)
 Midfielders: T Sherwood (Blackburn) / £2.5m (Leeds) / £1.5m (Leeds)
 Strikers: M Gayle (Wimbledon) / £1.5m (Leeds) / £1.5m (Leeds)
 Manager: A Ball (Man City) / £1.5m

plan after White left Leeds United and went to Sheffield United in the Endleigh Insurance League division one.

The central defenders have not worked out particularly well, either. Des Walker has cost me points so far and Frank Sinclair has not had the best of runs. He has not scored many points, but seeing as we are playing at Chelsea tonight I will be quite happy if he does not score any more.

Looking at the team now I think I should have picked Duberry rather than Sinclair. He would not have cost much at the start of the season and is a good player and beginning to fit in well at the back for Chelsea.

In the midfield, Tim Sherwood and Roy Keane are both players I would have in my team if I were a manager in real life, not just in ITF. They both tackle well, both pass the ball well but they do have one thing in common: they can both win matches.

At Manchester City we are not having the best of times. We have got to win tonight at Chelsea and then have Southampton and Sheffield Wednesday at home and West Ham United away. They are all games we can win if we perform to the best of our ability on the day — we have got to make sure it is our day when we play them.

Code	Name	Team	Pos	Wk	Av
41406	D Gordon	West Ham United	1.00	0	0
41409	R Slater	West Ham United	1.00	0	+21
41410	S Lazarides	West Ham United	1.00	0	+2
41411	M Hughes	West Ham United	2.00	+2	+34
41412	D Williamson	West Ham United	1.00	+1	+25
41501	A Hinchcliffe	Everton	5.00	+1	+26
41502	J Ebbrell	Everton	1.50	+1	+31
41503	A Limper	Everton	2.50	0	+25
41504	B Horne	Everton	1.50	0	+21
41505	V Samways	Everton	1.50	0	+5
41506	J Parkinson	Everton	1.00	+1	+35
41508	A Grant	Everton	0.50	+1	+10
41509	A Kanchelskis	Everton	6.00	+1	+50
41601	P Cook	Coventry City	2.00	0	+2
41602	K Richardson	Coventry City	1.50	0	+25
41603	G Strachan	Coventry City	1.50	0	+3
41607	P Taylor	Coventry City	1.50	0	+33
41608	M Isales	Coventry City	1.00	0	+9
41609	C Butts	Coventry City	3.00	0	0
41610	J Salako	Coventry City	2.50	+1	+43
41701	G Fillcroft	Manchester City	2.50	+1	+43
41702	P Beagrie	Manchester City	3.00	0	+3
41703	S Lomas	Manchester City	1.50	+1	+37
41704	I Brightwell	Manchester City	1.50	0	+16
41705	N Summerbee	Manchester City	1.50	+1	+37
41707	G Kinkladze	Manchester City	1.50	+1	+42
41708	N Clough	Manchester City	1.50	+1	+16
41730	C Brown	Manchester City	1.00	0	0
41801	A Townsend	Aston Villa	2.00	+4	+34
41802	I Taylor	Aston Villa	2.00	0	+32
41803	G Southgate	Aston Villa	2.00	+2	+46
41805	F Carr	Aston Villa	0.50	0	0
41806	M Draper	Aston Villa	2.50	+1	+51
41901	C Hignett	Middlesbrough	1.00	+1	+28
41902	A Moore	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	+1
41903	J Morison	Middlesbrough	1.00	0	+1
41904	R Mustoe	Middlesbrough	0.75	+1	+18
41905	J Pollock	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	+31
41906	B Robson	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	+2
41907	Juninho	Middlesbrough	5.00	0	+20
42002	D Lee	Bolton Wanderers	2.50	0	+11
42003	A Thompson	Bolton Wanderers	2.50	0	+14
42004	R Sneekes	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	0	+14
42007	W Burnett	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	0
42008	S Sellers	Bolton Wanderers	2.50	0	+21
42009	S Curoic	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	0	+20

Code	Name	Team	Pos	Wk	Av
50101	A Shearer	Blackburn Rovers	10.00	+0	+78
50102	C Sutton	Blackburn Rovers	7.00	0	+7
50103	M Newell	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	+21
50104	K Gallacher	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+12
50105	N Goodmanson	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	+1
50201	E Cantona	Manchester United	7.50	+3	+48
50202	A Cole	Manchester United	7.00	+1	+48
50203	B McClair	Manchester United	3.00	0	+16
50204	P Scholes	Manchester United	2.50	0	+34
50301	B Roy	Nottingham Forest	8.00	+3	+37
50302	K Campbell	Nottingham Forest	2.50	+1	+33
50303	J Lee	Nottingham Forest	1.50	0	+22
50304	A Silenzi	Nottingham Forest	3.50	0	+7
50401	R Fowler	Liverpool	8.00	+1	+85
50402	S Collymore	Liverpool	7.50	+1	+52
50403	I Rush	Liverpool	3.00	0	+19
50501	A Yeboah	Leeds United	7.50	+6	+52
50502	B Deane	Leeds United	2.50	0	+26
50503	P Maslinga	Leeds United	1.50	0	+3
50506	T Broolin	Leeds United	5.00	+2	+19
50601	L Ferdinand	Newcastle United	8.00	+1	+70
50602	P Beardsley	Newcastle United	2.50	+1	+36
50603	P Kinnear	Newcastle United	2.50	0	+7
50604	M Allen	Newcastle United	0.50	0	0
50605	D Huckerby	Newcastle United	0.50	0	+8
50606	F Asprilla	Newcastle United	1.50	+1	+4
50701	E Sheeringham	Tottenham Hotspur	8.00	+2	+68
50702	C Armstrong	Tottenham Hotspur	4.00	+1	+31
50704	R Rosenthal	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	+1	+31
50801	K Gallen	Queens Park Rangers	4.50	+5	+26
50802	B Allen	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	+5
50803	D Dichio	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	+4	+26
50805	M Hateley	Queens Park Rangers	2.00	0	+10
50901	D Holdsworth	Wimbledon	4.00	+2	+38
50902	J Goodman	Wimbledon	1.50	+1	+26
50903	M Hartford	Wimbledon	1.00	+1	+16
50904	G Bissett	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0
50905	A Clarke	Wimbledon	0.75	0	+9
50906	E Ekoku	Wimbledon	2.50	+1	+34
50907	J Euell	Wimbledon	1.50	0	+2
51001	M Le Tissier	Southampton	8.00	0	+27
51002	N Shipperley	Southampton	2.50	0	+50
51003	G Watson	Southampton	2.00	0	+26
51101	M Hughes	Chelsea	4.00	+3	+29
51102	M Stein	Chelsea	2.50	0	+8
51103	J Spencer	Chelsea	2.50	+1	+38
51104	P Furlong	Chelsea	2.50	+1	+21
51201	I Wright	Arsenal	7.50	0	+40
51202	D Bergkamp	Arsenal	7.50	+1	+41
51203	J Hartson	Arsenal	4.00	+5	+17
51204	C Kwongya	Arsenal	1.50	0	0
51206	P Dickov	Arsenal	0.75	0	+4
51301	D Hirst	Sheffield Wednesday	4.00	0	+38
51302	M Bright	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	+27
51303	G Whitham	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	+1	+25
51304	O Donaldson	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0	+3
51305	M Degryse	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00	0	+38
51306	D Kovacevic	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00	0	+10
51401	T Cottie	West Ham United	4.50	+1	+44
51403	M Boogers	West Ham United	2.00	0	-3
51404	I Dowie	West Ham United	0.75	+3	+39
51405	Dani	West Ham United	2.50	0	+4
51501	D Ferguson	Everton	6.00	+5	+24
51502	D Amokachi	Everton	2.50	+1	+25
51503	P Rideout	Everton	3.00	0	+29
51504	G Stuart	Everton	2.00	+1	+48
51601	D Dublin	Coventry City	4.50	+1	+54
51602	P Ndlovu	Coventry City	4.00	+1	+23
51605	N Lamprey	Coventry City	1.00	0	+3
51606	N Whelan	Coventry City	1.50	0	+31
51701	U Rosler	Manchester City	5.50	+1	+44
51702	N Quinn	Manchester City	4.00	0	+35
51705	G Creaney	Manchester City	2.50	+3	+15
51706	R Ekelund	Manchester City	2.50	0	+1
51801	S Milosovic	Aston Villa	3.00	+8	+52
51803	D Yorke	Aston Villa	4.00	+1	+24
51804	T Johnson	Aston Villa	5.00	+1	+28
51901	J Florio	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	+6
51902	J Hendrie	Middlesbrough	1.00	0	+5
51903	P Wilkinson	Middlesbrough	1.00	0	+5
51904	N Barnaby	Middlesbrough	4.00	+1	+40
52001	J McGinlay	Bolton Wanderers	3.00	0	+30
52003	M Pastelainen	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	0	+8
52004	F De Freitas	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	0	+24
52005	N Blake	Bolton Wanderers	2.50	0	+9

Code	Name	Team	Pos	Wk	Av
60101	R Hartford	Blackburn Rovers	5.00	0	+31
60201	A Ferguson	Manchester United	4.00	+3	+65
60301	F Clerk	Nottingham Forest	3.00	+1	+46
60401	R Evans	Liverpool	4.00	+1	+60
60501	H Wilkinson	Leeds United	3.00	+4	+38
60601	K Keegan	Newcastle United	4.00	+1	+56
60701	G Francha	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00	+1	+52
60801	R Wilkins	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	-2	+4
60901	J Kinnear	Wimbledon	1.00	+1	+25
61001	D Merrington	Southampton	1.50	0	+24
61101	G Hoddie	Chelsea	2.50	+1	+47
61201	B Rioch	Arsenal	3.50	+3	+41
61301	D Pleat	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	-1	+14
61401	H Redknapp	West Ham United	1.00	+3	+33
61501	J Royle	Everton	2.00	+1	+42
61601	R Atkinson	Coventry City	1.50	+1	+18
61701	A Ball	Manchester City	1.50	-1	+18
61801	B Little	Aston Villa	2.50	+6	+57
61901	B Robson	Middlesbrough	1.00	-1	+23
62002	C Todd	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	+4

101	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	4.50	0 +23
102	I Pearce	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	0 +3
103	N Marker	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0 +0
104	A Reed	Blackburn Rovers	0.75	0 0
105	C Coleman	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0 +16
201	S Bruce	Manchester United	4.50	+4 +35
202	G Peleizer	Manchester United	4.50	+0 +27
203	D May	Manchester United	1.50	0 +3
301	C Cooper	Nottingham Forest	3.50	+23
302	S Chettle	Nottingham Forest	3.00	0 +9
401	P Babb	Liverpool	3.00	+4 +39
402	N Ruddock	Liverpool	3.50	+3 +33
403	J Scales	Liverpool	3.50	+4 +28
404	M Wright	Liverpool	1.00	+35
405	D Matteo	Liverpool	0.75	0 +4
501	D Wetherill	Leeds United	3.50	+3 +20
502	C Palmer	Leeds United	3.00	+3 +18
503	J Pemberton	Leeds United	1.50	0 -2
505	P Beesley	Leeds United	1.00	+4 +13
506	R Johnson	Leeds United	1.50	+1 +3
507	P Albion	Newcastle United	4.00	+0 +19
508	S Howey	Newcastle United	3.00	+0 +25
600	D Peacock	Newcastle United	2.50	+0 +20
701	G Masbuth	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	+0 +27
702	C Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	0.75	0 -1
703	S Nethercott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.75	0 0
704	K Scott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0 0
705	J Cundiv	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0 0

NEWS

US build-up in China crisis

President Clinton has ordered a second aircraft carrier to join an American naval task force to protect Taiwan while China conducts missile tests and military manoeuvres near the island.

The USS Nimitz is to leave the Gulf with six or seven other ships this week to link up with the USS Independence off Taiwan before the island holds its presidential elections on Saturday week. They will establish one of the largest American forces in the region since the Vietnam War. Pages 1, 13, 17

Marriage guidance rift over Royals

The president of Relate, the marriage guidance council, resigned in protest against remarks by her two senior executives over the breakup of the marriage of the Prince and Princess of Wales. Page 1

Blow for Major

John Major was facing the prospect of his Commons majority falling to one within a month as the Government was hit by a leaked internal document warning that Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party could cost him the next election. Page 1

Petrol price war

Tesco added fuel to Britain's pump-price war and promised that no cheaper petrol would be sold anywhere in the country. Page 1

Singer cleared

Jarvis Cocker, of the pop group Pulp, will not be prosecuted over his outburst during Michael Jackson's performance at the Brit Awards. Page 2

Costly smoke

A compulsive smoker who lit up three times during a transatlantic flight in defiance of airline rules was fined £400 for endangering an aircraft. Page 3

River murder

An attacker who bound a woman's hands with a dog lead before pushing her into a river to drown might have also sexually assaulted her, police said. Page 5

RAF crash 'blunder'

An RAF Hawk aircraft which crashed, killing its pilot, had taken off with its ejection seat disconnected after maintenance work, it is claimed. Page 6

Cheltenham tip to protect pin-money

Racegoers at the Cheltenham National Hunt Festival are being urged to use safety pins to secure their pockets as an antidote to thieves. With crowds of up to 150,000 people expected for the race meeting which starts today, Gloucestershire police said spectators must be vigilant against pickpockets. Pages 5, 45

Housing benefits

Lawyers are exploiting years of council neglect of housing to collect millions of pounds in fees and win substantial compensation for tenants of dilapidated properties. Page 7

Mackay victory

Lord Mackay of Clashfern beat a rebellion by Tory peers when the House of Lords rejected a bid to extend the cooling off period for divorce. Page 8

Chechen struggle

Walk a few yards in any direction beyond the government compound and it becomes obvious how tenuous is Russia's hold over Grozny. Page 10

Saddam slaughter

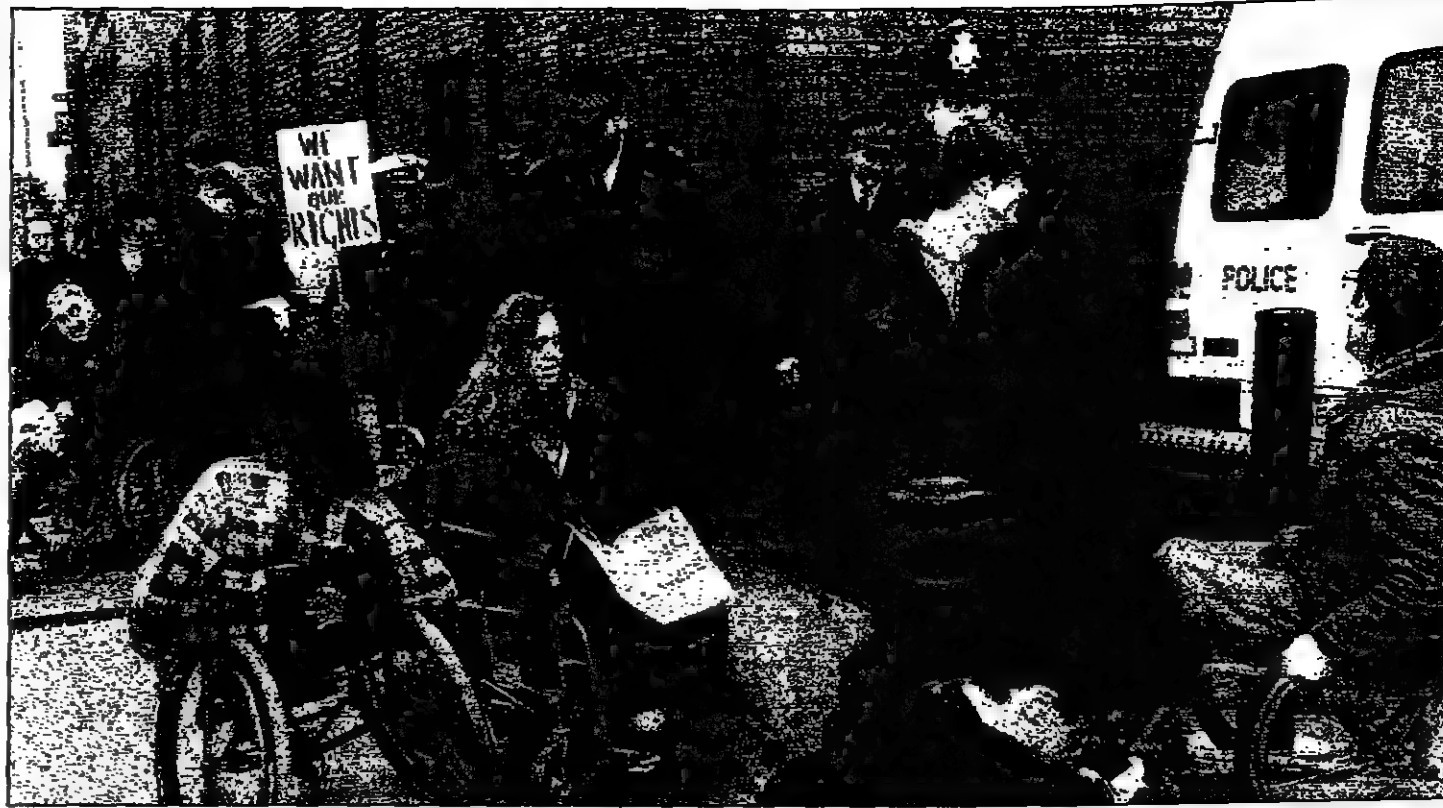
A month after the Baghdad shoot-out that killed two former sons-in-law of Saddam Hussein, the full story of the murder is beginning to seep out to the West. Page 11

Auction invasion

French auction houses, which have enjoyed a monopoly on sales for more than 400 years, will be forced to do battle with powerful foreign rivals. Page 12

Onassis hoard

The late Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis was confirmed as one of history's great hoarders when Sotheby's unveiled the catalogue for its forthcoming New York auction of her estate, and produced a 580-page book. Page 13



Disabled demonstrators leave Labour's London headquarters yesterday after a six-hour protest to demand better rights. Page 8

BUSINESS

Small business: Britain's small businesses welcomed a series of measures announced by the Government aimed at helping small firms to create jobs and promote economic growth. Page 25

Economy: Hopes for further interest rate cuts remained bright after a batch of sluggish economic statistics was released. Page 25

Dry cleaning: Skethley, the dry cleaning group, is to close up to 160 stores but locate dry cleaning and SupaSnap branches within Sainsbury supermarkets. Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell 35.3 points to close at 3674.5. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 83.7 to 83.6 after a fall from \$1.5255 to \$1.5240 and from DM2.2634 to DM2.2590. Page 28

SPORT

Cricket: Mark Waugh scored his third hundred of the World Cup to help Australia to reach the semi-finals with a six-wicket win over New Zealand. They will now face West Indies, who beat South Africa. Pages 46, 48

Football: Faustino Asprilla, the Newcastle United and Colombia forward, has asked for a personal hearing on charges of misconduct against Manchester City. Page 46

Rugby union: Lawrence Dallaglio, a contender to succeed Will Carling as England captain, has coped well with demands so far. Page 42

Racing: Aidan O'Brien, the young Irish trainer, can land his first Cheltenham Festival success with Hotel Minella in the Smurfit Champion Hurdle. Page 45

ARTS

One was right: What was Radio 1 doing by excluding the Beatles? "Making an accurate judgment of a record that simply doesn't hold up in terms of its listener profile," says David Sinclair. Page 39

Graffiti king: The Serpentine Gallery is showing work by the cult American graffiti artist Jean-Michel Basquiat, who died of a heroin overdose in 1988 aged 27. Page 40

Company man: Adrian Lester has won an Olivier Award for his role in Sondheim's *Company*. Now the 27-year-old actor returns with the show to the West End. Page 41

Virtuoso fiddle: Midori, the young virtuoso violinist, dazzled the Barbican audience on Sunday with a display of consummate musicianship. Page 39

FEATURES

Making tracks: Roberts from *The Railway Children* has dumped her starched petticoat and button boots to become lady of the manor, Clivedon, to be exact. Mary Riddell talks to Jenny Agutter. Page 15

Who killed Kathleen? The disappearance and mysterious death of Kathleen Waugh, a resident at a home for the physically and mentally disabled, passed virtually without notice — until now. Julia Llewellyn Smith reports. Page 15

Legal leaning: What kind of lawyer is emerging from the profession's one-year vocational course? Scott Slorach reports on the findings of a survey on solicitor training for the next century. Page 35

The quiet mind: Professor Kay Redfield Jamison had to reveal that she was not only a world expert on manic depression, but a sufferer from it as well. Giles Whimell tells her story. Page 14

The White House, which is responsible for the 'summit of the peace-makers', lists as its chief discussion points ways to enhance Arab-Israeli peace, to promote security and to combat terror. If practical results turn out to be few, the symbolism of the meeting nonetheless looms large. — Los Angeles Times

Group Captain Clive Stansbury, wartime bomber and Special Operations Executive pilot; Professor Arthur Beattie, Professor of Greek at Edinburgh University; Thomas Watson, former Minister of Natural Resources in Uganda; Vergílio Ferreira, Portuguese novelist. Page 17

Small businesses: Helena Kennedy, QC, on sentencing changes: law on stalking; homosexuals in the Armed Forces; cricket World Cup; American crayfish. Page 17

Small businesses: Helena Kennedy, QC, on sentencing changes: law on stalking; homosexuals in the Armed Forces; cricket World Cup; American crayfish. Page 17

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TODAY

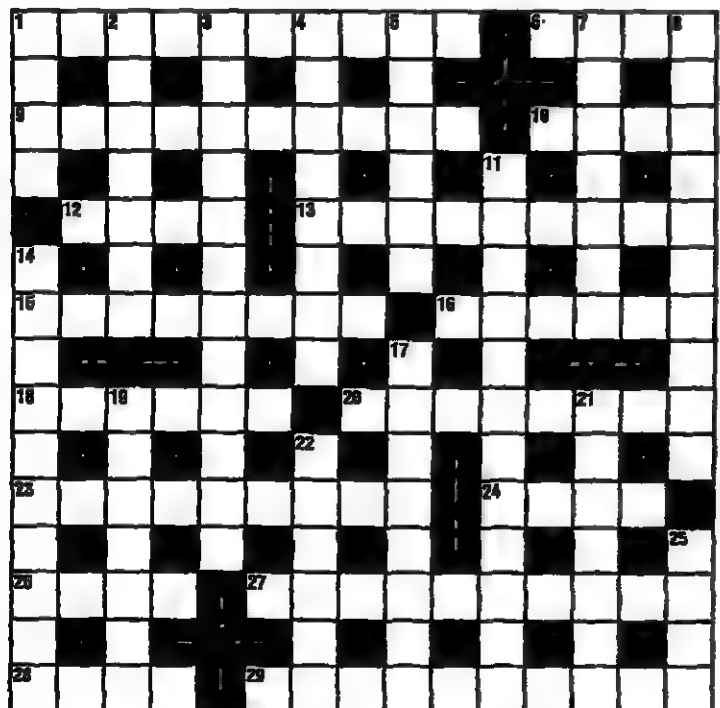
IN THE TIMES

FASHION
Italian glamour: Iain R. Webb on high chic and how to wear it

INTERFACE

In our weekly guide to new technology: how the voice-activated intelligent house will do your bidding

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,113



- ACROSS
- Place for crossing water attraction to game (10).
 - One ingredient not used by head cook (4).
 - Warned after explosion by spirited quarry manager? (4-6).
 - Fancy model endlessly portrayed (4).
 - A marksman sure to take toll (4).
 - Allure apparent in animated kind of preacher (9).
 - For example, flies around quietly and recondites (8).
 - Neighbour involves little woman in a racket (6).
 - Row when smoker is confined in study (6).
 - Cereal crop entirely covering western county (8).
 - Put on wrong track — error ascribed to motorway design (9).
 - Instant credit (4).
- DOWN
- Leaders of delegation in greatly superior accommodation (4).
 - Lacking direction, first class mail originally ranked lower (7).
 - Confusion with lager drinkers, perhaps, holding riotous assembly? Exactly! (12).
 - Angry when equipment's dropped in water (8).
 - Mineral agreeable to the taste, one hears (6).
 - Spanish gentleman hailing article in beaten goal (7).
 - State hand-out extremely likely to be accepted without shame (10).
 - Female's name entered in clear desire for company (4,8).
 - Inconvenience from dance centre attracting many over the way (10).
 - New ammunition about to be turned over to satisfy soldier (8).
 - Spend freely to have a wild bash (4,3).
 - One accepting credit note to add to collection (7).
 - Source material usable for study programme (6).
 - Quickly run and hide (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,112

UGLISS SUPERB
LUNAR THINKING
MISUPP
BOISWANA JURIST
URBAN PLECEMEAL
NIGOKAL
HIDEBOUND BRUTE
EDVCP
ENLAGE OKLAHOMA
DERMUPB
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NUODASE
GOLFER YULETIDE

Times Two Crossword, page 48

TIMES WEATHER

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, call 0800 500 followed by appropriate code.

Greater London: 701
Kent/Surrey/Sussex: 702
Dorset/Devon/ Cornwall: 703
Wilt./Glouce./Avon/Som.: 704
Beds./Herts./ Bucks.: 705
Northants/Suffolk: 706
West Mid./Shropshire: 707
Stratford/Hampshire: 708
Oxford/Berkshire: 709
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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY MARCH 12 1996



Downward pointer: shares fell sharply in London, but rallied after the Dow Jones industrial average on Wall Street moved into positive territory

London shares pull back from brink of crash

By MICHAEL CLARK AND PHILIP PANGALOS

CITY investors were breathing a sigh of relief last night after the expected stock market crash in London failed to materialise.

Even so, investors still had to endure a rollercoaster ride in the wake of Friday's 177-point fall in the Dow Jones industrial average. The FT-SE 100 index opened almost 50 points lower after the weekend break as traders took action to deter potential sellers and contain the situation.

The index reached its low of the day — 31 points down — at 1.30pm as all eyes focused on the resumption of trading in New York after the weekend break. But trading conditions proved thin and, in the absence of any real selling, the total number of shares traded was a meagre 631 million.

As the Dow Jones moved into positive territory after a nervous start, the index in London managed to recover its poise and close 35.8 down on the day at 3,674.5.

On the foreign exchange, the dollar managed to consolidate its position, closing mixed against its main rivals. Sterling's trade-weighted index dipped from 83.7 to 83.6 after the pound slipped from \$1.525 to \$1.524 and from DM2.2634 to DM2.2590.

Brokers in the Square Mile were expressing satisfaction with the market's performance that also saw bond prices close well above their worst levels of the day, having nursed losses of more than £1 early on. Traders said the final outcome could have been much worse.

A correction on Wall Street had been expected for some time. In the past year, the Dow Jones industrial average has soared more than 40 per cent and, until Friday, risen 10 per cent since the start of the year. In contrast, London's perfor-

mance has been disappointing, with political and economic worries overshadowing events.

Martin Lupton, head of market-making at Kleinwort Benson, said: "Wall Street overreacted. There was no selling pressure from clients. We expect conditions to return to near normal tomorrow, with bond prices calmer and Wall Street up. We should certainly move back above 3,700."

Friday's losses on Wall Street were compounded by overnight losses in Hong Kong where the Hang Seng tumbled 820.3 to 10,397.34, reflecting growing tension between China and Taiwan.

Bob Semple, equity strategist at NatWest Securities, said: "We all waited for Wall Street to open and when it

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didn't fall apart we all felt a sigh of relief." Michael Hughes, managing director of economics and strategy at Barclays de Zoete Wedd, said the US market had been "looking for an excuse for a correction". He said: "The response to the [US] interest rate picture is an overreaction. It's premature to anticipate a rate rise."

Mr Hughes summed up his concern about the correction and put it into perspective: "The news from Taiwan worries me more than the final outcome could have been much worse."

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BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET	FT-SE 100	FT-SE 100
FT-SE 100	3674.5	(-35.8)
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US RATE	Federal Funds	Long Term
Federal Funds	5.75%	(5.75%)
Long Term	5.875%	(5.875%)

FOREIGN EXCHANGE	£/\$	£/DM
£/\$	1.524	(1.524)
£/DM	2.259	(2.259)

COMMODITIES	Oil	Gold
Oil	18.13	(18.13)
Gold	338.7	(338.7)

NEW YORK	Dow Jones	S&P 500
Dow Jones	10,397.34	(-820.3)
S&P 500	2,874.5	(-35.8)

ASIA	Hong Kong	Taiwan
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Sketchley to shut down 160 stores

By SARAH BAGNALL

SKETCHLEY, the cleaning services and retail group, is to close 160 high street stores at the cost of 500 jobs.

The announcement came as it gave a warning that pre-tax profits before exceptional costs would fail to match the £6.3 million achieved in the year to March 31, 1995. The shares fell 12p to 126p.

Sketchley also revealed it had signed an exclusive agreement with J Sainsbury to locate its dry-cleaning and SupaSnaps photo-processing operations in some of the supermarket group's stores.

Sketchley said the restructuring was prompted by fundamental changes in customers' buying habits. David Davies, chairman, said: "There has been a major change in shopping habits in recent years, with the consumer looking for a one-stop location, ease of parking, and longer opening hours."

The group said its store portfolio did not reflect this change and as a result it was closing 160 unprofitable stores, leaving about 550 branches. The closure programme will result in an exceptional charge of £7.5 million, but once completed will add more than £2.5 million to the group's annual operating profits.

Referring to Sainsbury deal, John Jackson, chief executive, said: "The openings are likely to be very gradual, probably about five a year." At present, Sketchley has 30 outlets within supermarkets.

Mr Jackson emphasised that the link-up did not mark the beginning of the end of the group's high street presence.

The board has forecast a dividend of 3.5p against 3.4p last time.

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Major promises to shame late payers

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND PHILIP BASSETT

JOHN MAJOR promised yesterday to protect small businesses against late payment and bureaucracy, telling companies they could be forced to reveal their performance in settling bills.

The Prime Minister supported demands to "generate embarrassment" among late payers by making firms and the public sector publish full details of their bill-paying record. He said that ministers would take the lead in clamping down on departments and local authorities that delay settling bills which should normally be paid within a month.

League tables of departmental payment performance will be published each year and councils will be pressed to follow suit.

In a series of announcements aimed at removing burdens on small business, Mr Major promised "to bin rules" that stifle enterprise or bind companies in red tape. However, he avoided any reference to the controversial proposals, being considered by ministers, to remove current employment protection for staff at small businesses.

Jan Lang, President of the Board of Trade, has admitted his department is examining employee protection rules but insisted yesterday that they would not weaken the rights of staff made redundant.

Mr Major pointed to late payment as one of the main complaints of people running small businesses, but he stopped short of promising new laws to force companies to pay interest on delayed

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payment of bills. Although business leaders complain that up to 5,000 small firms close down because of late payments, Mr Major said there was a danger of creating more problems by introducing additional legislation.

During a one-day conference on small business, the Prime Minister said he agreed with the view that "rather than legislate, we should manage by embarrassment". He said: "Peer pressure does work. So I

believe we should take steps to generate embarrassment amongst those who wilfully and continually pay late."

Among the measures announced by ministers and aimed at curbing bureaucracy, Mr Major outlined plans to streamline the taxation and National Insurance systems, review uniform business rates and to set up a single point of registration for value-added tax, National Insurance contributions and pay-as-you-earn.

He said ministers were working towards measures specifically to help small firms, including the eventual abolition of capital gains and inheritance tax, reforming the business rate system and slashing central bureaucracy. "Wherever we can, we will bin rules, get rid of them."

Britain's small businesses broadly welcomed the measures even though they specifically did not include the removal of job protection law from small business employees, which led to a public split last week in the Cabinet.

Mr Lang emphasised the value the Government attaches to small firms: "You lie at

the heart of an enterprise economy. And only an economy that values enterprise has a hope of being truly competitive and winning in world markets." Ministers were responding to points raised in a consultation exercise carried out by business bodies, including the Institute of Directors, CBI, chambers of commerce and the main small firms' organisations.

Tim Melville-Ross, director-general of the IoD, which organised the consultation, said: "John Major scored pretty highly. We were pleased there was so much in the way of an immediate response to small business", although he added that the "jury is out" until small companies saw in practice what the Government intended to do.

Barbara Roche, Labour's small business spokesperson, who will put forward Labour's small firms case with Tony Blair next week, said: "Small firms are vital to our economy. They deserve a government which will take their needs seriously. The evidence of this conference is that this Government does not know what they want or need."

Economists see 5% rates

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

ECONOMISTS were predicting interest rates could be at 5 per cent by the end of the summer after economic statistics showed manufacturing activity staying weak, factory gate prices under control and retail sales still sluggish.

The data vindicate Kenneth Clarke's decision last week to cut rates by 0.25 per cent to 6 per cent. Don Smith, UK economist at HSBC-Midland, said: "The numbers fully justify the decision the Chancellor

took last week. Rates should be down to 5 per cent by the end of the summer."

Overall industrial production fell 0.5 per cent in January as warm weather cut demand for fuel products. Manufacturing production, which accounts for 84 per cent of the total industrial production, rose by 0.3 per cent from December. But manufacturing output across the three months from November to January fell by 0.6 per cent on

the previous three months, the weakest figures since August 1993. Producer output prices rose 0.2 per cent in February with the year-on-year figure falling from 3.8 per cent in January to 3.7 per cent. Producer input prices eased from 3.9 per cent to 3 per cent.

British Retail Consortium figures for February showed a smaller than expected year-on-year retail sales rise of 3.6 per cent from 4 per cent in January and December.

Investors lose £10m claim

By JON ASHWORTH

AN ATTEMPT by 120 investors to win £10 million in damages from an accountancy firm failed yesterday, when a High Court judge resoundingly dismissed their claim. Partners in Clark Whitehill were told that they would not be held accountable for the fraudulent activities of Nicholas Young, jailed for four years in 1991.

The judgment is a blow to investors contemplating American-style class actions against accountants and oth-

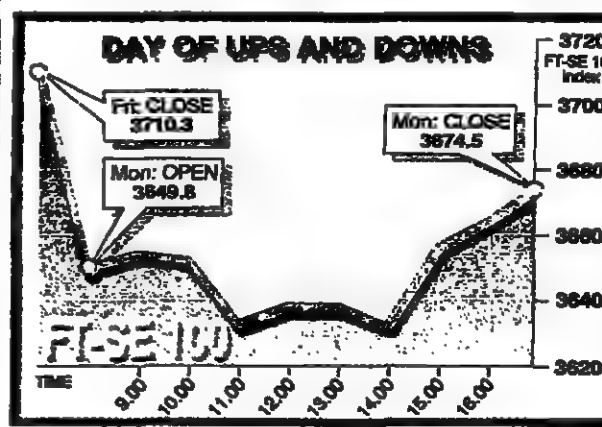
ers who are seen as having "deep pockets".

Clark Whitehill, Britain's tenth-largest accountancy firm, has spent up to £2 million fighting calls for compensation over Young, formerly international executive officer of Clark Kenneth Leventhal (CKL), an international accounting network. The firm is now part of Horwath International.

Young took office space in Clark Whitehill's building, and was responsible for CKL

marketing. On the side, he ran a scam, promising investors up to 4 per cent tax-free interest a month, and gambling away proceeds on the races.

Mr Justice Dyson ruled that Young's activities were conducted privately, and that neither CKL nor Clark Whitehill owed a duty of care to the investors, "almost all of whom were experienced businessmen and professional men" seduced "by the prospect of exorbitant tax-free returns".



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Video chain issues warning

Colorvision, the television and video stores chain, warned that its losses would be worse than market forecasts due to the Office of Fair Trading's (OFT) decision in January to revoke the group's consumer credit licences.

It has instructed Beeson Gregory, its financial advisers, to seek out companies to help to shore up its finances and is appealing against the OFT's decision. Since the OFT announcement sales, excluding satellite systems, have fallen 29 per cent.

The company said: "It is not possible, at this stage, to predict the final outcome (for the year to March 31) but a further statement will be made as soon as possible after the financial year end." The shares fell 3p to 23p—a fall from June 1988's 255p.

Hiscox grows

Hiscox Select Insurance Fund, the Lloyd's of London insurance trust, said underwriting capacity for the 1996 account has increased by 4 per cent to £58.77 million. In the year to December 31, 1995, Hiscox Select earned pre-tax profits of £1.13 million (£1.3 million for November 3, 1993 and December 31, 1994). The total dividend is 2.4p (3p) with a 1.2p final.

YBS pledge

Yorkshire Building Society will today unveil a 7.6 per cent rise in profits to £84.9 million coupled with a 10 per cent growth in assets to £6.4 billion. It will also pledge to give back more of its profits to borrowers and savers. Mortgage lending rose to £983 million (£918 million).

Refuge profits

Refuge, the insurance group, said yesterday that a 34 per cent rise in annual profits to £42.1 million included a one-off £5.3 million from the sale of its general insurance business. Profits from linked life business fell to £1.95 million (£2.23 million).

Roxboro up

The Roxboro Group, the sensors and instrumentation company, is lifting the 1995 dividend by 25 per cent to 6p a share from 4.8p, with a final 4p. Pre-tax profits rose to £16 million last year (£12.2 million).

Utilities deal

United Utilities, the merger of North West Water and Norweb, the electricity company, has signed a 20-year agreement to operate water and sewer services for North Brunswick in the state of New Jersey in America. Total turnover is estimated at \$200 million.

D&G better

Domestic & General, the domestic appliance insurer, reported a 6.8 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £5.4 million in the six months to December 31. The dividend, due May 9, was lifted 10.2 per cent to 12.25p.

Dividend rise

Hibernian Group, the Dublin insurance and financial services group, lifted operating profits nine per cent to £126.8 million in 1995. The total dividend rises 13 per cent to 18.9p a share with a final 16.1p.

Major launches initiatives to improve life for small firms

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government yesterday unveiled new initiatives aimed at helping small business in Britain, in a move led by John Major, who insisted that the enterprise culture embodied by small firms was vital for the UK's economic success.

Mr Major told a London conference on small firms: "Small businesses are not some minority interest. They are the main source of future jobs, and the backbone of our economy."

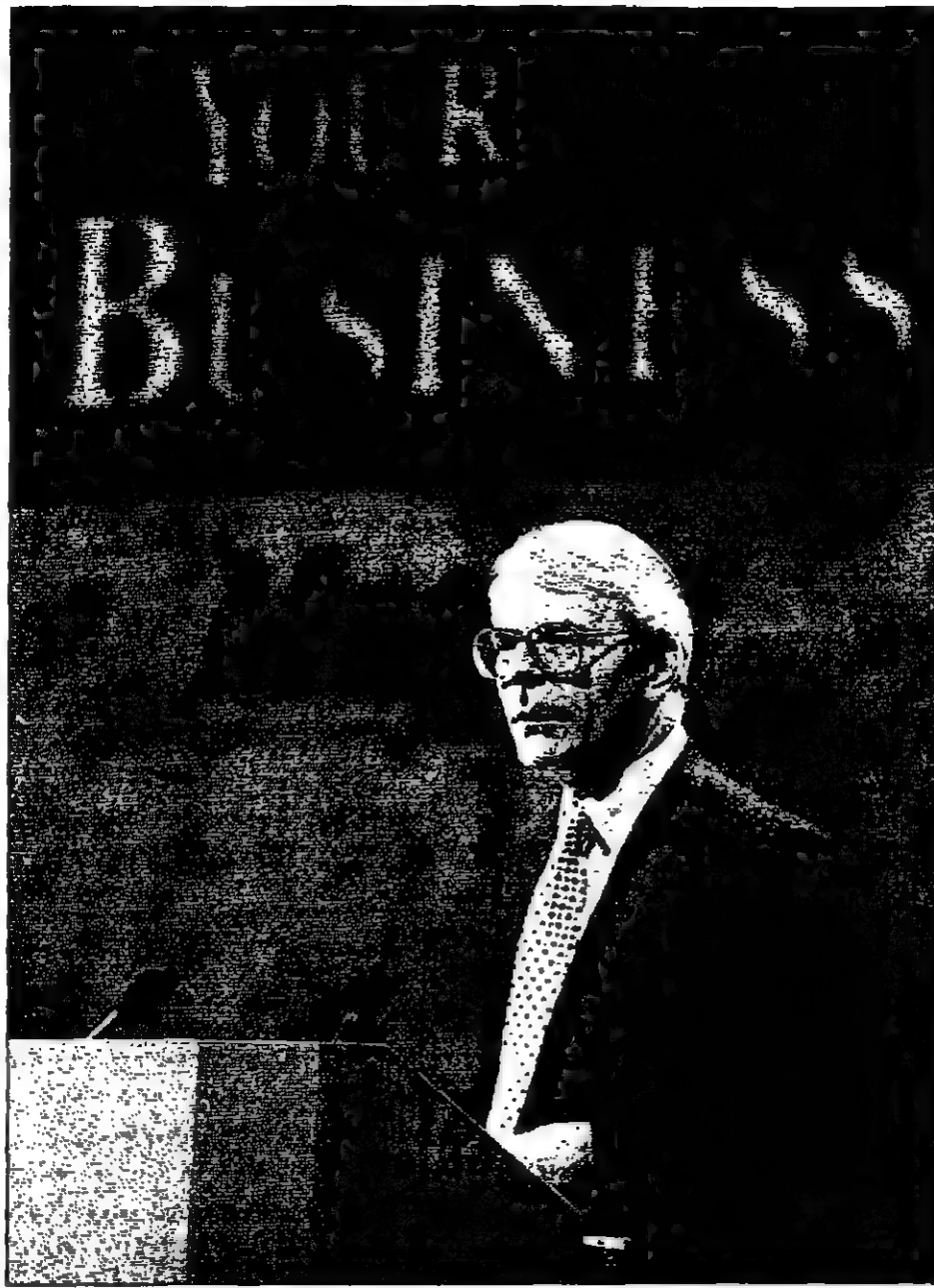
The conference was the culmination of what the Prime Minister called the largest consultation exercise mounted with small companies. In many cases ministers' announcements were in line with what small companies said they wanted—detailed in *The Times* yesterday.

The main measures laid out in a series of ministerial speeches included:

□ **Late payment:** The small business consultation did not show support for new laws on late payment of bills, and although Mr Major said that he favoured "peer pressure" and the ability to "manage by embarrassment" on late payment, he made it clear that he supported the idea of companies being required by law to publish in their annual reports their payment performance as well as policies, which the law requires now.

The Government will consult on this issue but, in advance of that, is taking steps to improve the payment performance of Whitehall departments, announcing that it will publish each year a league table record of what they achieve on payment times. The Government will ask local authorities to do the same, and will consider legislation to require them to do so.

□ **Employment:** The Government made no announcement on scrapping employment protection legislation for employees working in small businesses, as foreshadowed in a leaked government letter last week, although Mr Lang insisted the issue was still under consideration. But the Government is to publish a draft Bill on the operation of Britain's industrial tribunals, after a consultation. Green Paper. The Bill is likely to propose much greater use of conciliation and arbitration, rather than moving in every case to a tribunal hearing.



John Major addressing the conference "small businesses are the backbone of our economy."

□ **Tax:** registration: From next month new businesses will no longer have to register separately with the Inland Revenue, the Contributions

Agency and Customs & Excise on tax, National Insurance and VAT, but will be able to sign up with all three on one simple form. New employers will soon get free advice, on these issues, and Mr Major promised further moves to give greater coherence to the tax and NI systems, including a single audit visit, more joint

information and a single helpline for queries. □ **Enforcement:** The Government intends to apply to environmental standards, food safety, building regulations and, eventually, consumer affairs an approach already applied to health and safety—issues of consistent and fair enforcement, including the reasons for regulation, reasonable notice, and the right of appeal against inspection decisions. Appeal mechanism details were issued yesterday. The Government is also considering whether penalties over enforcement should be criminal rather than civil, though ministers insist criminal sanctions will still have a part to play in some cases.

□ **Development:** Ministers intend small business development to be easier, by piloting—in two local authorities—a one-stop-shop approach on all enforcement development, including fire safety, listing, planning and building controls, with the intention of applying the scheme, more widely, once it has been evaluated.

□ **Information:** The Government wants information on small business regulation to be clear, and widely available, and is studying using the Internet as a medium. It displayed for the first time at yesterday's conference a prototype information technology system making available all the necessary regulations on one computer screen.

□ **Business support:** As well as promoting best practice, the Prime Minister also announced a "radical review" of the Government's support schemes for business, with the aim of making them easier to understand. Work is starting immediately, and it is hoped to have the results early in June.

The Government will set out the results of many of these moves when it publishes, probably in June also, its third competitiveness White Paper. Consultative conferences on the deregulation of specific industrial sectors, including tourism, chemicals and engineering, will begin before that.

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Allied Domecq to expand pub chains

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

ALLIED DOMECQ, the drinks company, yesterday launched a £150 million pub expansion programme that will create about 7,500 primary part-time jobs over the next 12 months.

It will concentrate on expanding its existing branded pub chains, including the family-orientated Big Steak pubs and the youth-targeted Firkin chain. Allied Domecq Leisure, a new subsidiary, said that it would be funding a total of 250 developments. At present, it operates 1,120 outlets across Britain.

The company said that it was responding to continued demand for family pubs and more pubs that serve food.

About 100 new Big Steak pubs will be developed, most incorporating Wacky Warehouse play barn facilities aimed at children up to the age of 11. The successful Firkin chain is set to expand from 84 outlets to about 200 in the next year.

Allied Domecq Leisure was created in October last year to focus on developing branded outlets. A second subsidiary, Allied Domecq Inns, continues to control the regional pub chains of Tetley, Ansells, Ind Coope and Taylor Walker.

The development announcement pleased the market. Allied shares, which have taken a battering after a profits warning last month, climbed 5p to close at 508p.

Danes give Rentokil shares pledge

SOPHUS BERENDSEN has pledged not to sell any shares in Rentokil for at least five years.

The promise rejects City rumours that Denmark's Berendsen wished to significantly reduce its holding after Rentokil's £1.9 billion bid for BET, the business services company. Berendsen's existing 52 per cent holding will be reduced to 35 per cent if Rentokil's cash-and-shares offer for BET is successful.

BET published its defence document on Sunday predicting a 27.5 per cent rise in total dividend to 5.1p and describing Rentokil's offer as "wholly inadequate". Rentokil is expected to publish a full response later this week.

Cable and Wireless shares soar on talk of takeover

By ERIC REGULY

SHARES of Cable and Wireless soared yesterday to a high as speculation mounted that it has become a takeover target.

The rise, to 477p, up 30p on volume of 12 million shares, came after British Telecom confirmed holding unsuccessful merger talks with C&W which ended late last year. It is thought that C&W balked at BT's suggested takeover price.

Analysts said that C&W now appeared to be "in play" and that US telecoms companies, including AT&T and the Baby Bells, were potential suitors. US institutions were responsible for much of the C&W buying. After being rejected, BT may return with a hostile bid.

The share surge came as Lord Young of Graffham, the C&W chairman who was ousted in November, approved a severance package that will pay him only three months' salary. His acceptance came after the company threatened to deny him his lucrative share options if he demanded more.

A quarter of his £475,000 salary will leave him with £119,000. He is also to receive about £55,000 in pension and health benefits plus an estimated £200,000 share of the directors' bonus scheme. His

830,000 share options, granted at prices between 210p and 262p, are worth about £2.4 million at current prices. The value of the total package, including options, is more than £2.7 million.

It is thought that Lord Young initially argued that his salary should be paid until February of next year, when he turns 65. C&W's non-executive directors decided in November that he should remain chairman until then, and that James Ross, the chief executive, should leave within six months, but then asked them both to leave.

C&W said Mr Ross's successor will be announced by the end of the month. Five Americans and two Europeans (neither British) are on the shortlist. Lord Young has been replaced by Brian Smith, who was a non-executive director. □ **Ofcom:** the telecommunications regulator, said its proposal to amend BT's licence, prohibiting anticompetitive practices is not an attempt to make the company less profitable. The statement was in response to letters and phone calls from BT shareholders.

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Laporte sticks to high investment levels

LAPORTE, the specialty chemicals group that lost its chairman and finance director in the past four months, will maintain high investment levels in spite of a severe setback in 1995, which caused pre-tax profits to fall 8 per cent to £113 million, before exceptional items. Jim Leng, the new chief executive, said the destocking that affected second-half profits was five, said the destocking that affected second-half profits was five, said the destocking that affected second-half profits was five.

Laporte has taken a restructuring charge of £83 million for redundancies and closures. The company will close nine sites and lay off 300 people. Pre-tax profit after the exceptional charge was at least 300 people. Pre-tax profit after the exceptional charge was at least 300 people. Pre-tax profit after the exceptional charge was at least 300 people.

Spirax-Sarco ahead

SPIRAX-SARCO ENGINEERING, the supplier of products and services for the efficient use of steam, lifted pre-tax profits to £43.1 million in 1995 from £34.6 million in the previous year. Turnover rose to £251.3 million from £217.9 million, with 86 per cent of sales destined for markets outside the UK. Capital expenditure was 40 per cent higher at £14.8 million. Earnings were 33.8p a share (27.9p). A final dividend of 9.2p a share, due May 20, makes a total of 13.2p (11.5p).

Fuel supply sufficient

OIL and gas production in Britain will exceed the present rate of annual consumption for a further ten years, according to an offshore industry report. The study also claims there are sufficient reserves to sustain significant production levels for at least a further 20 years. The projections are the focus of a new report by the UK Offshore Operators' Association. It estimates that gas production could reach peak levels by the end of the century.

Suter saves Clearplas

SUTER, the engineering group, expects to announce the sale of its Clearplas UK operation soon, reversing a decision to close the maker of plastic components for the automotive industry and securing more than 400 jobs. Suter said a £6.9 million loss on disposals, mainly due to a goodwill write-off, pulled pre-tax profits down to £20.2 million in 1995 (£23.6 million). The final dividend of 6.1p (6p) is payable on June 26, giving 9.8p (9.5p) for the year, from earnings of 10.8p (13.9p).

Partco Group ahead

PRE-TAX profits of Partco Group, the distributor of automotive parts, rose to £7.47 million in the year to December 31, from £6.22 million last time, as turnover, boosted by acquisition, grew by 21 per cent, to £164.4 million. Like-for-like sales grew by nearly 5 per cent. The 250-branch group is to pay a final dividend of 4.75p on May 31, making 7p (6.2p) for the year, up 13 per cent, from earnings per share up by 18 per cent, to 19.6p (16.6p). The shares rose by 1p, to 252p.

Cortecs trims losses

CORTECS INTERNATIONAL, the biotechnology company specialising in oral drug-delivery systems, yesterday said its loss for the half year to December 31 fell 20 per cent to £1.6 million on turnover that rose 53 per cent to £4.9 million after tighter controls on costs and spending. The company said a £12 million private placement and £1.2 million funding agreement have left it with enough financial resources to continue its research and development efforts for some time.

Cathay advances 24%

CATHAY PACIFIC, the future of which is clouded by the Chinese takeover of Hong Kong, announced a net profit of HK\$2.9 billion (£249 million) for 1995, up 24 per cent from a year earlier. Peter Sutch, chairman, said there was no danger of the Swire group, Cathay's parent, having to sell any of Cathay to give it a more Chinese character after Britain hands over the colony next year. Already, much of Cathay's engineering and repairs are carried out in China.

Fairey chief optimistic

FAIREY GROUP is confident about the outlook for this year, although the general economic environment is probably slightly less favourable than in 1995, said Sir Robin Biggam, chairman, yesterday. The company, which operates in industrial electronics and specialist engineering, reported 1995 pre-tax profits of £34.2 million (£25.8 million). Earnings rose to 27.4p a share from 22.8p. A final dividend of 5.45p a share, due June 14, lifts the total to 3p from 7p.

Redrow profits down

STEVE MORGAN, chairman of Redrow Group, the house-building company, said house prices appeared to have stabilised and there had been a gradual return of customer confidence. The company yesterday reported a fall in profits to £12.1 million before tax in the half-year to December 31, from £16.3 million previously, with earnings down to 3.8p a share from 5.2p. The interim dividend is increased to 1.1p a share from 1.05p. The shares were unchanged at 139p.

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Denmark Kr	9.34	8.54
Finland Mk	7.58	6.82
France Fr	8.15	7.50
Germany Dm	2.41	2.20
Greece Dr	366.00	364.00
Hong Kong \$	12.42	11.42
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Sh	5.1200	4.7000
Italy Lira	2489.00	2384.00
Japan Yen	174.00	156.00
Malta	0.581	0.536
Netherlands Gld	2.882	2.452
New Zealand \$	2.40	2.18
Norway Kr	10.42	9.62
Portugal Esc	245.50	227.00
S Africa Rd	0.54	0.574
Spain Ptas	167.00	184.00
Sweden Kr	11.05	10.25
Switzerland Fr	1.96	1.78
Turkey Lira	107473	99473.0
USA \$	1.600	1.490

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Bank of Ireland Base Rate

Bank of Ireland announces that with effect from close of business on 11th March 1996 its Base Rate has decreased from 6.25% to 6%



Bank of Ireland

HEAD Office, 34 High Street, Slough, Berkshire SL1 1ED

□ Wall Street steadies, London breathes again □ Political risks of C&W takeover □ Major's minor small business measures

The benefits of hindsight

AN apocryphal tale from the theatre tells of the lazy critic's review, written and filed well before the interval, that appears the next day with no mention of the fatal fire that razed the theatre during the last act. One of the few pleasures of these little stock market upsets is the analysts' research, written well before the crisis and blithely unaware of its imminence, that flops blindly onto the desk even after the shooting starts.

No names, but two typical headlines from brokers' research yesterday read "Still on track" and "How to tell when a stock market bull run is nearing its end". About the best indication of the end of a bull market, as it happens, is the sort of apparently random fall that started in New York before the weekend.

Friday's tumble came because of favourable economic statistics, US investors assuming there would be no more interest rate cuts. It is hard to think of a more convincing demonstration that US markets had become uncoupled from reality and the fundamental ratios that should drive share prices. Yet the global nature of stock markets allowed the process to be repeated in London, after the City had

watched a wave of overnight selling sweep across Asia.

Some of that Far East selling had more to do with heightened Chinese sabre-rattling over Taiwan, while a set of UK manufacturing output figures issued yesterday suggested that base rates here may have further to fall if flatness continues into coming months and the Tories want to win the next election. No matter: stock markets have their own internal momentum, and if London was braced for a fall, then fall there would have to be. The market then dithered until an uneasy Wall Street kicked in and stabilised. At this point, London decided life was worth living again and halved the earlier loss.

Bull markets either finish in one huge crash, as in 1929, or they abate downwards in a series of large leaps. The betting is that this last is what is happening, which suggests a few more three-figure falls interspersed with slow recoveries

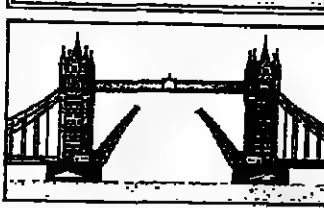
until equilibrium is reached — the classic saw-toothed curve.

The next test will come later this week, with American unemployment, inflation and industrial production numbers. If they are again good, this could spark another weekend collapse. If they fail to confirm last Friday's favourable news, share and bond prices will presumably rise again. And the professional prognosticators? Remarkably short on firm advice, although one came up with an almost Augustinian piece of fence-sitting. "This must be seen as a buying opportunity," he said. "Although not just yet."

For whom the bell tolls

□ CABLE AND WIRELESS is a sitting duck. Its management has been in turmoil since the sacking in November of Lord Young of Graffham and James Ross, and the shares of the only

PENNINGTON



truly global telecoms operator are clearly undervalued.

A new owner would get instant access to more than 40 countries, including China. C&W's jewel, the 57 per cent-owned Hong Kong Telecom, is forging links with Peking in hopes of becoming the preferred supplier of everything from fibre-optic transmission systems to mobile phones. The market potential is staggering: imagine Great Britain times 30.

Yet the British parent is unlikely to lose its independence immediately. A new chief executive, probably American,

should be appointed within a couple of weeks. Given the complexity of the task, the new boy will not want to fall out of a job too soon by calling in the auctioneers. There is also the Hong Kong question: any buyer would want assurances that Peking will guarantee HK Telecom's independence and the right to keep most of its profits after the Union Jack comes down next year. The Wall Street plunge cannot be blamed entirely for the slump in the company's shares: China's game of brinkmanship with Taiwan has not helped.

The political risks would be especially acute for BT, which has confirmed some sort of merger proposal to the C&W board. China might not take kindly to a C&W-BT behemoth. Thanks to the strong stance taken by Chris Patten, our man in Hong Kong, British companies are distinctly out of favour. US companies are in favour, though that may change if American and Chinese ships cross wakes in the Taiwan Strait.

The global telecoms revolution will eventually catch up with C&W. The political risks, however, should buy it some time.

Cautious with the big ideas

□ LACKS the Big Idea — this is the usual denunciation of John Major's government. While yesterday's attempts at big ideas, such as describing Britain as now engaged in "economic warfare" with its foreign competitors, were largely silly rhetoric, there was a raft of small ones that will be most helpful to small business in Britain.

One Big Idea, scrapping employment protection for half of Britain's employees, has been ambushed by ministers with a bit more sense of electoral savvy. That still leaves a greater coherence on VAT and national insurance, or a one-stop regulatory shop for small business.

While the Deputy Prime Min-

ister's earlier boasts about manipulating invoices hardly sit comfortably with Mr Major's endorsement yesterday of peer pressure on late payers to "manage by embarrassment", one of the most surprising outcomes of talks with small business is their lack of keenness for new laws to deal with the problem.

Some business bodies claiming to be representative have insisted there is strong support for legislation. The Government has been more guarded, and that caution now looks right. Disclosure may not solve the problem — it may not even be a Big Idea. But it will be of some practical help, and on that test, the Prime Minister scored yesterday.

Accidents happen

□ POOR old Costain's 23 per cent share price rise at the end of last week, in the teeth of a market collapse, looked like an accident looking for somewhere to happen. So it has turned out, after yesterday's profits warning and an abrupt tumble back again. The company says trading was too slight to justify using section 212 notices to flush out potential bidders — is someone scared there might be nobody out there?

British Vita drops 28% as prices rise

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

SLUGGISH economies and rising chemicals prices were blamed yesterday by British Vita, the polymers and plastics group, as the company turned in a 28 per cent drop in pre-tax profits.

British Vita, which supplies foam and fibre products for household, automotive and industrial products, saw pre-tax profits for the year to December 31 slide to £35.7 million. Bob McGee, chairman, said that last year had seen unprecedented price jumps in raw materials while its markets also struggled with weak economies.

This two-pronged obstacle last year triggered a substantial restructuring. The final dividend, payable on May 13, was set at 4p, taking the total to 7.95p, a rise of 3 per cent on the previous year.

Costain statement unsettles shares

BY PHILIP PANGLOS

SHARES in Costain Group fell 11½p to 79½p after the embattled building and construction company said it knew of no reason for a recent rise in its share price and said that 1995 results would be "some way" below current market expectations (see Pennington, this page).

Shares in Costain added 10p last Friday after a wave of takeover speculation swept the market, with much of the talk centring around Arab-owned stakes in the company.

Costain issued a statement yesterday firmly denying any knowledge of a reason for the share price rise. A Costain spokesman insisted that the company was "not aware" of any reasons for such an in-

crease, but was not willing to elaborate further.

However, John Campbell, finance director, said that the company had not issued any disclosure notices (under section 212 of the Companies Act 1985) in order to ascertain who had been acquiring shares. He said: "The trading was very thin on Thursday and Friday. The market may have been speculating as to what may happen after recent activity concerning Artec and Trafalgar House."

The market was further unsettled by the effective profit warning from Costain.

Analysts had previously expected 1995 pre-tax losses, which are due to be unveiled next month, of between £16

million and £20 million before any exceptional items. This compares with a provision-laden loss of £180.4 million previously.

Some analysts were concerned that Costain's US mining operations, which made a £40.4 million loss last year, suffered a further setback and may not yet return to the black. However, Mr Campbell said: "US mining has not been a problem in 1995." He suggested that the latest difficulties centre around the group's engineering businesses, which did not recover sufficiently in the second half.

Costain's market capitalisation has dropped from £536 million in 1990 to a mere £41.2 million at yesterday's close.

Weather and investment hit Pentland

BY PATRICIA TEHAN

PENTLAND, the sports and leisure goods group, found its performance hindered by warm weather and the cost of investment in new businesses.

After acquisitions and investments, interest income almost halved to £4.2 million, restricting growth in pre-tax profit to £100,000, taking profit to £38.2 million. This masked a 9 per cent rise in operating profit to £28.1 million and a 19 per cent rise in sales to £754.9 million.

Margins were squeezed as a warm autumn held back US footwear sales, and the hot UK summer held back sales of Berghaus outdoor equipment. The dividend for the year rises 6 per cent to 3.3p. The final payment of 1.95p is due on July 1.

Rugby profits crumble 40%

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE difficult construction market caused full-year profits at Rugby, the building materials company, to tumble 40 per cent to £46 million.

Rugby blamed a fall in demand in its United Kingdom, Australian and United States markets. Profits were also hit by strikes and flood damage in The Netherlands and Rugby took exceptional charges of £27 million.

The company said it will invest £100 million in a new cement factory at Rugby, Warwickshire, which should be operating by the end of 1998 producing 50 per cent of the company's total UK cement output. Existing capacity at Rugby, and two other plants will be reduced resulting in a £9.8 million charge.

Rugby also intends to dis-

pose of its non-core metal building products division. Overall turnover increased by 13.1 per cent to £1.14 billion while the total dividend was unchanged at 3.6p.

The only division to improve was the manufacturing and distribution business which increased profits by 27 per cent to £10.2 million.

Profits at the core cement and lime division fell by 13 per cent to £34.2 million, while profits in the joinery division decreased by 19 per cent to £25.6 million.

The company said that while prospects for this year were difficult to predict, it expects a modest improvement in profits. Rugby shares fell 1p to 114p. A final dividend of 2.1p (2.1p) is payable on May 10.

Persimmon says takeover will save cash

BY PHILIP PANGLOS

PERSIMMON, the house-builder, expects to make substantial cost savings from its £177 million acquisition of Ideal Homes from Trafalgar House.

Duncan Davidson, chairman, said that the Ideal Homes acquisition will enhance earnings this year, and that consolidation of Persimmon's 13 operating companies and Ideal's seven units into 15 core subsidiaries should bring "good synergy benefits".

Persimmon said that margin pressure in the housing market and higher interest costs had pulled pre-tax profits down to £22.8 million in the year to December 31, from £24.3 million last time.

The total dividend is maintained at 9.5p, with a final 6.5p payable April 29, from earnings per share of 14p (14.9p).

RETIREMENT

11 000 000 clients

With so many clients

worldwide we have

acquired such diversity

of experience that

we can be confident

in the commitment

we make

Go ahead
you can rely on us



This number speaks volumes about AXA's size as one of the world's insurance leaders and of our efficiency.

Our clients, each with different retirement problems, live in 23 countries on 4 continents. Cross fertilization through international synergy groups allows us to devise more innovative and thoughtful solutions.

With US\$ 270 billion in funds under management, we are also the 4th largest insurance group worldwide. So we are not speaking lightly when we say: "Go ahead. You can rely on us".

AXA

INSURANCE & INVESTMENT

London shares fight back after Dow 'correction'

IT WAS a day of consolidation on the London stock market in the wake of Friday's 171-point fall on Wall Street. The damage limitation exercise carried out by market-makers proved highly effective in keeping the lid on things and by the close of business last night traders were rightly pleased with the market's performance.

A sharp market-wide first thing in both bonds and equities had the desired effect. It kept potential sellers at bay while reinforcing other investors. As a result the damage was contained.

The FT-SE 100 index was down almost 50 points during the first few minutes. Just before the resumption of trading on Wall Street after the weekend break, the index hit its low point with a fall of 81.2 points. With the Dow Jones holding its own during early trading in volatile conditions, the index was able to haul itself off the bottom to close at 3,558.25, a 0.47% rise.

Shares traded reached 631 million, hardly the stuff of raging bear markets. One trader in London summed it up: "Friday's fall on Wall Street was overdue. Traders have spent much of today catching up on the weekend papers."

Most traders in London had been expecting a correction on Wall Street sooner, rather than later. The Dow Jones average has risen more than 40 per cent in the past year and until Friday was up 10 per cent since January 1 alone. US Treasury bonds had been falling for the best part of two weeks. Something had to give, dealers said.

Blue chip stocks suffered double-digit losses, although managing to close above their worst. Barclays bank fell 19p to 714p, Barmah Casrell 18p to 512.5p, General Accident 22p to 620p, South-Kill 22p to 620p, and Legal & General 22p to 681p.

Among those managing to resist the downward pressure elsewhere in the market was Hanson, up 3p to 189.5p, as the buyers came in for the shares in both London and New York. Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker, continued to reiterate its buy stance. It puts a conservative break-up value on the group of 224p a share.

Cable & Wireless also resisted the downward pull with a rise of 30p to 477p following



Equity dealers at NatWest Markets in the City yesterday

confirmation at the weekend that it had been in bid talks with BT towards the end of last year. A report at the weekend said the talks had since been terminated. Brokers say the main sticking point was the outstanding 47 per cent stake in Hong Kong Telecom that C&W no longer owns. At last night's close of business C&W was valued at

City expectations. Brokers are again forecasting a small loss for the year after producing a deficit of £10.4 million last time. On Friday, C&W shares jumped 10p to 91p following a surge of speculative buying. The price closed yesterday 12p lower at 79p.

BET slipped 10p to 193p after publishing its defence document. The group has

rejected a £1.8 billion offer from Rentokil and promised shareholders a rise of 27.5 per cent in the dividend to 5.1p. This is the main plank in its defence in which BET continues to deride Rentokil's offer as "wholly inadequate".

It was not the best backdrop for British Vita to unveil full-year figures. Pre-tax profits

of £1.8 billion were down from £2.1 billion in 1995. The group's operating profit was £1.1 billion, down from £1.2 billion. The group's net profit was £0.8 billion, down from £0.9 billion.

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last year slipped from £49.5 million to £48.4 million before exceptional charges of £12.7 million. Shares of the polymers group ended the session 3p cheaper at 204p.

Laporte, 1p firmer at 691p, failed to impress the City with its full-year figures, which were underpinned by an £88.7 million charge for restructuring. Destroying left pre-tax profits £10.3 million lower at £13.2 million.

The City also gave a lukewarm reception to Fairway, where pre-tax profits climbed from £2.8 million to £3.42 million. The shares fell 10p to 613p.

Brokers were unmoved by the size of the provisions made by Rugby Group, 2p cheaper at 113p, in its full-year figures. The figure was in excess of £20 million, with the bulk of it relating to restructuring of its expanding US operation.

The group revealed a drop in pre-tax profits last year from £76.1 million to £45.8 million.

Persimmon, the housebuilder, which has just paid Trafalgar House £177 million for Ideal Homes, marked time at 196p despite the promise of substantial savings to emerge from the deal. Pre-tax profits last year dropped from £24.3 million to £22.8 million.

GILTED-EDGED: There was a further flattening of the yield curve after the longer end managed to claw back some of the earlier falls. Prices opened lower, reflecting the sharp falls in US Treasury bonds late on Friday. After reaching their lows in London around lunchtime, the market was able to claw back most of the losses after T-bonds found support in resumed business.

In the futures pit, the June series of the Long Gilt touched £103.16, before ending the session just three ticks off at £104.4. A total of 86,000 contracts were completed.

The longer end of the market enjoyed a late run to the back, the losses by the close to just a few ticks. Treasury 8 per cent 2015 finished three ticks better at 196.23, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 lost £1.32 at £101.12.

NEW YORK: Wall Street bounced back from Friday's big fall, with investors concentrating on technology and cyclical shares. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 38.65 points higher at 5,509.10.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 5509.10 (+38.65)
S&P Composite 634.89 (+1.39)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 19796.20 (+39.50)
Hang Seng 10977.45 (+200.34)

Amsterdam:
EEX Index 307.60 (+0.60)
AD 2167.41 (+0.33)

Sydney:
All-Share 2627.79 (+61.33)
DAX 2316.34 (+84.42)

Brussels:
General 2815.66 (+193.23)
CAC-40 1948.89 (+26.57)

Paris:
CAC-40 1948.89 (+26.57)
Zurich:
SIX Gen 748.80 (+8.00)

London:
FT 30 2746.9 (-13.1)
FT 100 3558.25 (+0.47)
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Leisure has its limits

LEISURE property is hot and investors cannot afford to wait while the muses at the Accounting Standards Board come to a conclusion about the depreciation of investment property. Last week, J.D. Wetherspoon, a go-go pub investor took the plunge and decided to write down the value of its pubs every year. Figures and fittings over six years, leaves over their life but astonishingly, Wetherspoon is taking 2 per cent off the value of its freeholds every year.

Yesterday, the extent of the disagreement was highlighted by Allied Domecq's plan to spend £150 million on new pubs. The company does not depreciate licensed premises and has no plans to do so. But with more than £2 billion tied up in retailing assets, Allied's potential depreciation charge could be huge. A cynic might suggest that the

diminutive Wetherspoon is expanding so fast that it needs to reassure investors. However, the issue is more complex. Property companies that revalue buildings annually see no need to take a charge to profits. Values are already adjusted in the balance sheet. However a trading company that is being valued by the market on earnings, not assets, should be treated differently. A pub is not an investment property but a business in a changing market. Refurbishment of restaurants and pubs is expensive — sums of £500,000 are not unusual — and themed operations need five-year reviews.

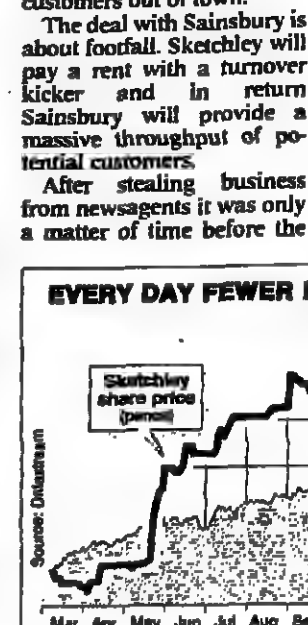
Investors should not rely on assurances from Allied that Big Steak Pubs and Wacky Warehouse play barns are worth their book value. They should be written down, if not by Allied Domecq, then by the market.

Sketchley

ON DOZENS of decaying streets and wind-swept town centre shopping precincts, Sketchley has given up the fight. The fault is not just 1970s planning blight, but a ruthless competitor. The aggressive newcomer is not new at all but our old friend, the family business, which is able to offer a level of service that cannot be matched using economies of scale.

Opening early and closing late is not an easy option. To make the numbers work a multiple needs to ensure that the increased staff costs will yield a substantial gain in revenue. However, insensitive planning in town centres has turned busy high streets into pedestrian precincts that are deserted after 5pm, and landlords are not adjusting rents accordingly. In the circumstances, Sketchley has

EVERY DAY FEWER BRANCHES



Laporte

LAPORE has some way to go before it quells the shock waves from last December's profit warning. The new chief executive was no doubt keen to rapidly rearrange the furniture in his new office. Non-performing factories have been shut down and people who may or may not fit that description have left the company or will leave over the next year.

Laporte's performance last year was not as bad as was feared in December. The businesses still enjoyed organic growth of 8 per cent and double-digit margins. The main culprit was typically poor stock management in the chemical industry. Faced with rising prices, Laporte's customers grew their stocks too quickly and too fast. That caused a shock to Laporte when its ambitions came up against the reality of consumer demand.

A bigger worry is whether Laporte's investment pro-

British Vita

BRITISH VITA juggles with two imponderables: the chemical cycle and fickle consumer demand. To its credit, the company, which supplies foam and polymers to automotive, household and industrial manufacturers, did not buckle under the strain when the odds began stacking ominously against its last year. It took radical surgery,

scaled back operations in

Germany, pumped investment into Eastern Europe, and abandoned businesses where it lacked critical mass. Yesterday's dip in profits shows the severity of the chemical cycle but belie the restoration work at British Vita.

Price volatility is calming and, along with the pick-up in Western economies, will enable British Vita's margins to pick up to something like their previous level. Restructuring of its operations should be fully complete by the end of this year, by which time we can expect the economic pendulum to start swinging back in British Vita's favour.

The leaner and more focused version of the company, along with a changed management should enable it to maximise benefits from the upturn while minimising exposure to the next downturn.

EDITED BY CARL MORTIMER

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE									
COCOA									
Mar	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908
Apr	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908
May	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908
Jun	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908
Jul	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908
Aug	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908
Sep	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908
Oct	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908
Nov	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908
Dec	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908
Jan	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908	907-908
Volume 4629									
ROBUSTA COFFEE (K)									
Mar	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750
Apr	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750
May	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750
Jun	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750
Jul	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750
Aug	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750
Sep	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750
Oct	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750
Nov	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750
Dec	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750
Jan	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750	1745-1750
Volume 1000									
WHITE SUGAR (FOB)									
Mar	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4
Apr	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4
May	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4
Jun	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4
Jul	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4
Aug	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4
Sep	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4
Oct	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4
Nov	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4
Dec	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4
Jan	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4	318.1-318.4
Volume 1000									
NEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION									
Average livestock prices at representative markets on March 8									
Item	Unit	Price	Change	Item	Unit	Price	Change	Item	Unit
Cattle	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Sheep	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Calves	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Pigs	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Stags	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Goats	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wethers	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Chickens	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Goats	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Ducks	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Chickens	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Geese	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Ducks	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Turkeys	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Geese	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Quail	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Turkeys	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Pheasants	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Quail	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Partridges	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Pheasants	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Squirrels	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Partridges	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Rabbits	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Squirrels	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Deer	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Rabbits	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Boar	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Deer	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Cat	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Boar	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Dog	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Cat	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Horse	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Dog	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Pig	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Horse	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Rabbit	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Pig	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Squirrel	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Rabbit	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Turkey	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Squirrel	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Duck	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Turkey	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Goose	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Duck	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Chicken	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Goose	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Pheasant	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Chicken	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Partridge	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Pheasant	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Quail	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Partridge	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Squirrel	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Quail	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Rabbit	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Squirrel	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Turkey	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Rabbit	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Duck	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Turkey	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Goose	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Duck	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Chicken	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Goose	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Pheasant	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Chicken	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Partridge	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Pheasant	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Quail	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Partridge	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Squirrel	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Quail	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Rabbit	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Squirrel	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Turkey	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Rabbit	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Duck	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Turkey	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Goose	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Duck	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Chicken	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Goose	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Pheasant	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Chicken	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Partridge	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Pheasant	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Quail	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Partridge	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Squirrel	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Quail	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Rabbit	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Squirrel	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Turkey	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Rabbit	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Duck	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Turkey	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Goose	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Duck	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Chicken	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Goose	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Pheasant	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Chicken	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Partridge	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Pheasant	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Quail	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Partridge	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Squirrel	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Quail	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Rabbit	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Squirrel	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Turkey	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Rabbit	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Duck	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Turkey	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Goose	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Duck	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Chicken	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Goose	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Pheasant	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Chicken	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Partridge	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Pheasant	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Quail	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Partridge	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Squirrel	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Quail	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Rabbit	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Squirrel	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Turkey	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Rabbit	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Duck	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Turkey	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Goose	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Duck	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Chicken	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Goose	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Pheasant	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Chicken	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Partridge	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Pheasant	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Quail	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Partridge	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Squirrel	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Quail	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Rabbit	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Squirrel	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Turkey	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Rabbit	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Duck	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Turkey	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Goose	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Duck	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Chicken	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Goose	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Pheasant	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Chicken	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Partridge	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52
Wild Pheasant	lb	105.18	13.25	116.52	Wild Quail	lb			

THE
TIMESCITY
DIARYRound-up at
Northumbrian

NORTHUMBRIAN Water, under fire recently for several serious supply breakdowns, yesterday announced it was diversifying into horse-trading. About two dozen horses have been doing a spot of illegal grazing on land belonging to the company at Low Wadsworth near Bishop Auckland, County Durham, and Northumbrian has had enough. "We've posted notices giving whoever owns the horses until today to come and get them. If they don't, we've got a horse catcher to round them up and we will sell them to the public," a spokesman said.

Taylor maid

CHOOSING names for a baby is never easy. Football teams, pop stars and other celebrities all provide inspiration but for the Jones family in Sydney it was a building. They were so impressed by Harrington Park, Taylor Woodrow's new complex outside the city that they named their new baby girl Taylor. She has since been "adopted" by Taylor Woodrow (Australia) as part of its 75th anniversary celebrations. Housing complex and baby both reported to be doing well.

Poetry corner

HIGH Street banks can be human, even lyrical. Joan Woolard of Fleet, Lincolnshire, recently wrote in rhyme to Barclays' head office and received the following from the chairman's office: "We recognise the efforts that they have made. And trust foundations have now been laid. For a successful future, which will be seen. To have resulted from the efforts of a winning team. She awards Barclays seven out of ten for effort — minus one for addressing her as Mr."



Good old days

IT WAS back to the Eighties last night as scantily clad models, their bodies covered in dollar, yen, DM and sterling symbols, mingled with guests at the launch of CNBC, Europe's first 24-hour business news television service. The gilded invitation list at the Criterion was put to the test and played Trivial Pursuit financial-style, fielding questions from the gals on stocks and shares. The winner won a Saab.

Squeezed in

WITH only a millimetre to spare on either side, it took almost two hours to edge the new Jaguar XK8 through the front door of the Royal College of Art, where it was unveiled yesterday. Shrouded in mystique, the much-hyped motor was draped in a heavy red blanket and kept under the watchful eye of a burly team of eight. The only disturbance was caused by a gaggle of excited teenagers, frantically in search of the pop duo PJ & Duncan, who were putting in an appearance at the Albert Hall next door.

Seen on the back of a truck travelling at 5mph through M25 roadworks: Motorway Construction — making jams since 1980.

COLIN CAMPBELL

Back to the future for key to unemployment v 'feel-good'

Philip Bassett

tries to find
a relationship
between votes
and job losses

The Government will tomorrow announce what ministers hope will be the 30th successive monthly fall in claimant unemployment in a further move towards what may well be the return of the economic "feel-good" factor in good time for the forthcoming general election.

Though they tend to be divided about exactly how unemployment affects politics, most political rumormongers accept that the number of people out of work plays a key part in the view of the economy which tends to be a central factor in electors' decisions about how they will vote.

Unemployment is primarily a function of the economic cycle — though the much earlier fall in the number of people out of work in the recovery from the recession of the early 1990s suggests that the relationship of unemployment to the business cycle is now more complicated than it used to be, and that greater labour market flexibility may be making that relationship much harder to gauge.

But economic cycles also reflect at least in part political imperatives: few economists now do not associate the overheating of the UK economy in the late 1980s with the overstimulation applied by Nigel Lawson, the then Chancellor. Unemployment is part of that — and the Government's political opponents now use the pattern of unemployment over the lifetime of the Conservative administration as part of their pre-election charges against it.

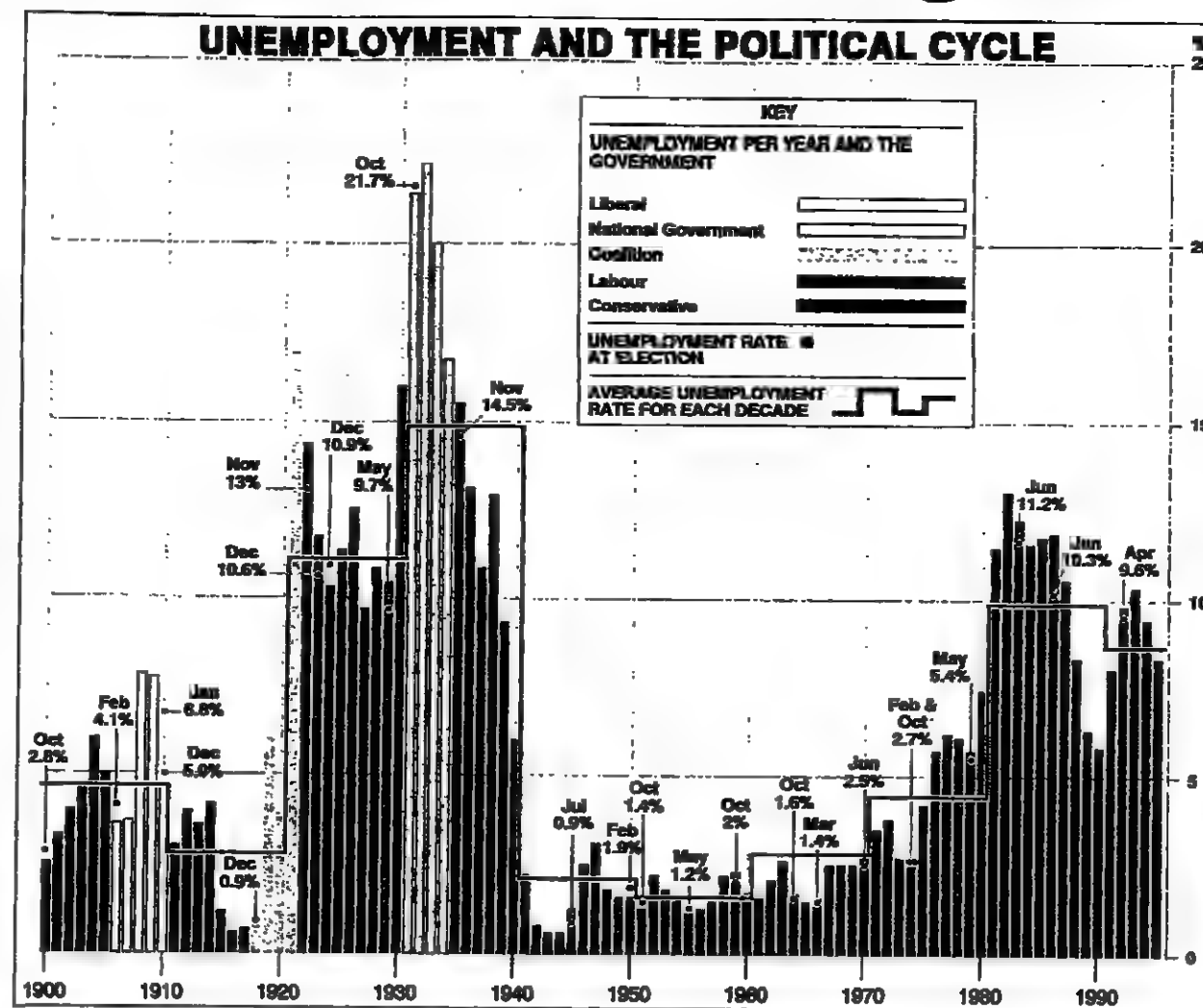
Ministers believe that with unemployment falling, and the number of jobs growing, the labour market is less of a political factor than it used to be. But Malcolm Bruce, the Liberal Democrats' economic spokesman, says that unemployment is still higher than when the Conservatives came to power in 1979 — and that voters know that.

Today *The Times* presents a long-run analysis of unemployment, measuring the number out of work from 1900 against the UK's 20th century political cycles. Using Government figures, it shows the pattern of unemployment against the pattern of politics.

The main illustration, based on Central Statistical Office figures, shows the unadjusted annual average UK unemployment rate for each year since 1900, against the timespan of governments elected at each general election.

In that time, the Conservatives have been the most successful political party, winning 15 general elections, and forming eight continuous administrations. Labour has won eight elections, and formed a continuous administration five times — though sometimes for very short periods, such as its first government from January to November in 1924. The Liberals formed an administration once in the period, and there were two periods of coalition or national government.

There are statistical prob-



lems with data running so far back: though unemployment rates are reliable for more than a century, statistically-reliable figures on unemployment levels have only been collected properly since 1922; so all references to Conservative and Labour levels of unemployment are to levels under administrations of both parties since then. Both main political parties will be able to claim some success over unemployment over the long term, though in each case any such success is heavily couched. So though Conservative governments managed to bring unemployment down from the two startlingly high peak periods of the century, in the 1920s and 1930s, those peaks were reached under Conservative administrations. And though unemployment rates are by and large much lower when Labour is in power, some of the accelerations in unemployment have been very rapid under Labour governments. Averages sometimes distort stories, but though unemployment inevitably rises and falls, on average, joblessness rises whichever political party is in power.

Technically, the average unemployment rates for the years of Conservative and Labour governments are not that different — but those averages mask some very high levels of unemployment under the Conservatives. For instance, the extraordinary unemployment rates seen in the 1920s and 1930s overshadow even those of the recent Conservative years. In the years of the depression, average unemployment rates for each decade — the accompanying graphic shows the unemployment rate for each ten-year span this century — were 12 and 15 per

cent respectively, while average unemployment in the 1980s, including the recovery late in the decade, was much lower, at 10 per cent.

But when actual unemployment levels are seen, the picture changes — and the focus on recent Conservative years becomes sharper. Though the unemployment rate in the 1980s was lower than in the 1920s and 1930s, the actual level of unemployment was much higher: in 1986, unadjusted annual unemployment hit an average of 3.29 million, compared with a high point in the



Lawson: blamed for the overheating

1920s of 1.44 million and 2.81 million in the 1930s.

Unemployment levels are lower under Labour. In the years of Conservative governments, unemployment this century averaged 1.4 million. By contrast, average annual unemployment levels under Labour are about 770,000. With unemployment lower under Labour, inevitably when increases start to come, they look startlingly high — though many are rises from a relatively low base. When the Conservatives form the Government, the average rise in

unemployment across the years of its administration is about 84,000, or 3.3 per cent. That, though, partly reflects the length of some Conservative administrations. Long-running Conservative governments, such as that since 1979, can cover a number of economic cycles, so end-to-end measures such as overall rises or falls in unemployment can miss big changes in between.

Labour's periods in government have tended to be shorter, which often means Labour governments preside over less than only part of an economic cycle. In this case, it means that for Labour, the average rise in unemployment is much higher — more than 512,000, or more than 80 per cent. Not only, though, are many Labour rises from a low base, but time looks like a key factor here: at what point do particular political parties take office — and, accordingly, what economic climate, including the level and rate of change of unemployment, they inherit from their predecessors.

One point clearly shown by the illustration, for instance, is the startling effect on unemployment of a good war. Not just because of the high death toll but also the high levels

of production and output to service the war effort tend to give almost full employment.

Equally, the post-war effect of unemployment is marked, with the number of jobless tending to rise sharply once war is over. In 1945, and to a lesser extent in the 1920s, voters turned to Labour as offering a hopeful alternative. The result is that the post-war Labour government in particular presided over a startling 200+ per cent rise in the level of unemployment from 1945 to 1950. Even so, compared with present unemployment at 2.2 mil-

lion, a rise from 131,000 to 403,400 looks relatively small, though it inevitably pushes up the overall average rise in unemployment under Labour. The analysis also allows a test of opposition politicians' claims of the richest effect of modern unemployment.

In electoral terms, whether unemployment is higher when a government of a particular political complexion leaves office than when it enters it.

Looking at unemployment levels for which figures are available, unemployment has risen under six Conservative administrations — and fallen in just two. By contrast, unemployment has increased under every Labour government, bar its first, short-lived administration under Ramsay MacDonald, when it fell by 95,500, or just over 7 per cent.

What does all this show?

Mostly, it gives detail to common views — such as unemployment rising under Labour but it shows other points — most especially, that in spite of rising unemployment when Labour is in power, Labour's unemployment rates are lower. What it does not show is anything about causality: whether policies pursued by individual governments push unemployment up or down, and whether falling or rising unemployment is a significant factor in electoral outcomes.

ANATOLE
KALETSKYSo far, so good
— still bullish

So history did not repeat itself. There was no Black Monday — or even Grey Monday — to follow last week's toned-down re-enactment of that memorable Friday in 1987, when Wall Street fell by 4 per cent while the London stock market was shut down by a hurricane. World stock markets reacted calmly to the setback on Wall Street.

The American pundits and politicians who have been virtually unanimous in urging the public not to worry, have apparently been proved right. So far. The British fund managers who have been predicting a crash on Wall Street ever since the Dow Jones industrial average took off like a rocket at 4,000 have been apparently proved wrong. So far.

I say "apparently" and "so far" because financial markets yield up their mysteries to no one and all judgments about their behaviour must be provisional. As I write this column the Dow is bouncing back and looking as if it would end the day at around 5,500. But for all I know it will suddenly crash by another 200 points between the time I leave the office and the close in New York at 5pm London time.

Those of us who were in New York for an authentic "Black Monday experience" will never forget the story about Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, who boarded a flight from Washington to Texas at lunchtime, when the Dow was only 200 points down. When he got off the plane he immediately asked one of his assistants to find out how Wall Street had closed. "It was down five-eight," came the answer. "So you see you can never predict the market," remarked the bemused Fed chairman, "after all that panic it bounced back and ended just five points down."

But in spite of my tentative phrasing regular readers of this column will know that my personal sympathies at present lie with the American bulls and against the City bears. I believe that Wall Street since mid-February has been going through a temporary correction. This may well take the Dow down a further 200 points. But eventually the correction will give way to another power-

ful advance. I think that the same basically bullish outlook applies to London.

My reasoning can be summarised in one sentence: American and British shares will do well because the American and British economies are getting stronger. At first sight, this statement seems to conflict with the oft-repeated market "wisdom" that stock markets fall in response to economic growth — a paradox apparently confirmed by the way Wall Street collapsed last week after unexpectedly strong figures on employment. The true market wisdom, however, is not so simple.

Stock markets do not abhor economic growth — that is only true of bond markets. Equity investors actually love the rising profits that come from economic growth. What they dislike are the high interest rates that rapid growth frequently, but not invariably, produces. Whether growth provokes higher interest rates depends on whether the Government is trying to foster a stronger economy or to repress inflation.

The reason for being fundamentally bullish is that America and Britain both seem to be on course for a period of decent growth without rapid inflation or sharply rising interest rates. Sooner or later the economies will doubtless overheat. But I believe this danger period lies well ahead and that neither interest rates nor inflation will remotely approach the peaks of the recent past.

History also suggests that a rise in long-term interest rates should not be seen as a signal to sell. Equities and bonds have almost never moved simultaneously into bear markets. Looking at the past 30 years, the average lag between the peaks in bonds and equities has been six months in America and five months in Britain.

So let us suppose, for argument's sake, that long-term interest rates are now heading inexorably upwards — and this is by no means certain, especially in Britain. Even then, the bulls could have several more months — and hundreds more points — to run.

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Lloyd's offer must be raised to end saga of problems

From Miss Mero Tetby

Sir, Lloyd's of London demonstrates yet again how out of touch with reality it is — this time in its implied generosity to names in order for all who seek finality to achieve it ("Lloyd's aims to make exit easier", March 7).

The fact is that names who have paid as much as they can

to Lloyd's towards their purported losses have already maximised their borrowing against their homes. Many rely solely on their retirement income to survive. They simply don't have either the collateral against which to borrow or the income necessary to repay further loans.

Lloyd's deliberately mis-

leads everyone into believing that the reconstruction and renewal plan (R&R) is the best offer it can make. The £2.8 billion sounds impressive, but those who have the facts know that it is not. It is far from adequate and must be increased substantially if Lloyd's genuinely wishes to resolve its self-inflicted problems and to continue to trade.

Does Lloyd's seriously believe that it will have no blood on its hands when names fail to raise the necessary funds for "finality", when they are made homeless and when the Inland Revenue bankrupts them for being unable to pay the tax on the Debt-Credits contained in the so-called R&R?

Names who firmly believe that they have a case against Lloyd's *et al* must unite, must gird their loins and must continue to fight until a realistic offer is made or, failing this, until true justice is achieved through litigation. This is not the offer that will provide finality. Yours faithfully, MERO TETBY, BRICKLE FARM, College Farm Road, Belton-in-Rutland.

Workfare vote

From Greville Janner, QC

MP for Leicester West (Labour), and Sir Ralph Howell, MP for Norfolk North (Conservative).

Sir, Your account of the important report of the Commons Employment Select Committee on the Right to Work/Workfare was incorrect ("Dole queue costs £24bn a year", March 8). It stated that the report was carried on the casting vote of the chairman. This is not true. Although there were amendments carried on the casting vote of the chairman, we would like to make it clear that the report of the committee, which consisted of six Conservative and five Labour members, was carried unanimously.

The report clearly called for the Government to institute a pilot scheme, based on the Right to Work Bill presented by Sir Ralph Howell and Mr Frank Field, and also that the highly successful Workstart schemes should be made available nationwide. Yours sincerely, GREVILLE JANNER, RALPH HOWELL, House of Commons, SW1

Magnanimous way to woo embittered names

From Mr Michael Williams

Sir, Robert Hiscox (Business Letters, March 7) is quite right to demand magnanimity in the resolution of the current Lloyd's debacle. His plea is, however, sadly misdirected and I suggest that he now reach for the mirror and repeat it to himself. Justice demands that maximum resource be assembled to fund the compensation pot, itself inevitably inadequate, since, however increased, it can never equate to the £11 billion losses incurred largely through the negligence which has characterised the Lloyd's market.

Magnanimity demands simply that the pot be expand-

ed by the circa £600 million windfall profits which will accrue to the members' agents in the 1993/4/5 profit release. These agents already have their fees. The managers will also have their profits on these three years as working names. It is iniquitous that they should benefit from further reward when most of their losses will be funding further losses. A donation of the whole £600 million pot might just be the magnanimous gesture which sways the hearts of embittered names behind the settlement formula. Yours faithfully, MICHAEL WILLIAMS, 32 Riverside Court, Nine Elms Lane, SW8.

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Partner sought to head IT function in group with strong profile in the field. Clients include major IT consultancies and international computer companies. Role will involve managing existing team and developing business plan for the area. Evidence of ability to generate work would be helpful. A following is not a prerequisite. (Ref:6135)

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For further information in complete confidence on these and the many other vacancies currently registered with us, please contact Yvonne Phillips, Lisa Miles or Miranda Smyth (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-377 8510 (0171-376 4968 evenings/weekends) or write to us at Zarak Macrae Brenner, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PT. Confidential fax: 0171-247 5174. E-mail yvonne@zmb.co.uk

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HEAD OF IT (no following necessary)

Our client is a dynamic and highly respected medium-sized City firm with a substantial international practice dedicated to offering clients an excellent all round commercial service. Having identified particular growth areas within the firm, our client is now focusing on expanding its IT Unit, which already boasts a substantial client base including major suppliers and users.

This expansion will be realised by the appointment of a senior IT lawyer to head up an unusually young and thriving team. This is a unique opportunity for either a partner or a senior, top calibre assistant aspiring to partnership already specialising in this practice area. The successful candidate will have proven marketing and client development skills, commercial acumen and leadership qualities. A following is not necessary, although it would be a useful indication of ability.

If you have the requisite skills, and are looking for partnership with a firm offering a friendly, professional environment, then our client would like to talk to you.

Please contact Caroline Fish or Dominique Graham at Graham Gill & Young on 0171 430 1711 or write to them at 46 Kingsway, London WC2B 6EN. Fax 0171 831 4186. All enquiries will be treated in strict confidence.



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Our client is a 40 partner City firm whose corporate department has an outstanding reputation for the quality and efficiency of its work and its practical approach to problem solving.

The firm acts for both public and private companies. The core business is in mid range transactions including mergers and acquisitions, company flotations, MBO's, reconstructions, joint ventures, partnerships, corporate insolvency, banking and financial services.

Our client now wishes to appoint another high calibre solicitor, with 2-3 years' good quality corporate and commercial experience, ideally gained with a City practice.

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Harbottle & Lewis is an acknowledged leader in the areas of entertainment/media and aviation. It provides a full range of commercial, corporate, litigation, IP, IT, and tax advice to clients in these and many other industries. Much of the work involved is of an international nature.

Harbottle & Lewis has an exceptionally strong client base in all areas of entertainment and media including a growing client base in new media. Its breadth and depth in these areas is unique.

The firm's aviation practice acts for two of the UK's three long-haul scheduled airlines, several other established and newer airlines and also for other aviation businesses. The expansion of the practice in these core areas has created three opportunities for solicitors newly to two years qualified.

IP/IT/MEDIA

Exceptional growth in the established but expanding client base of intellectual property and information technology has created a need for two further solicitors. At the forefront of new media developments, Harbottle & Lewis is enjoying significant expansion in the areas of interactive entertainment and more traditional media, as well as in the increasingly important areas of character merchandising and brand management.

One of the positions will involve primarily IP/IT advice and the other will include some corporate work as well.

You will be either newly qualified with the ability to apply both interest and commercial nous in these areas or up to two years qualified with some relevant experience.

AVIATION

Our clients will expect you to have the ability to understand their industry and to use your legal skills to help achieve their commercial objectives.

You will not need previous aviation experience, but an interest in the industry and the ability to understand it are prerequisites.

Fluency in a second major European language would be an advantage.

The job will involve legal and strategic advice on all aspects of our clients' businesses. You will learn to apply legal skills in commercial and corporate law, including aircraft acquisition and leasing, UK and EU regulation and competition law.

You will be newly to one year qualified.

Applicants for each position should have an excellent academic record and have strong interpersonal skills. If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please send your CV with a covering letter to Deborah Sherry at Harbottle & Lewis, Hanover House, 14 Hanover Square, London W1R 0BE. Personal applications only. We will not consider agency CVs.

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With domestic and pan-European responsibilities, you will build and manage a commercial, contracts and purchasing team.

To take advantage of this challenging and exciting opportunity you must be pro-active, an easy communicator and with excellent commercial and legal skills. You are likely to have a legal

qualification, with at least 10 years' experience gained in one of the major IT/Telecoms or Electronics companies where you will have had responsibility for a team of legal, commercial and contracts managers.

You will enjoy working in a team environment with challenging senior managerial responsibility for the processes and commercial activities of a business that frequently involves high value, complex contracting.

If you have the skills, desire and experience to take advantage of this exciting opportunity, then please send your CV together with contact and salary details in complete confidence to Daniel Richards at Michael Page Legal, Page House, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LH, fax 0171 831 6662, or telephone him on 0171 831 2000.



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LAW

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● LAW REPORT 38



To master the law, a trainee solicitor must be a mixture of second-hand car salesman, Fellow of All Souls (A.L. Rowse), Edward de Bono, Bill Gates and Jeremy Paxman, with the ability of Napoleon to cope without sleep and the hypnotic skills of Paul McKenna... and that's not all

The fully rounded trainee

TODAY hundreds of would-be lawyers will descend on Telford in Shropshire for The Times Law and Finance Fair. Despite competition for trainee places, law is still a popular career. But what kind of lawyer is emerging from the profession's one-year vocational course?

SCOTT SLORACH reports on the findings of a survey on solicitor training for the next century

I have two pieces of good news. First, those who write copy for solicitors' trainee recruitment brochures need never again agonise over the relevant merits of a "team player" over someone who can "act independently on their own initiative". I know what makes the ideal trainee solicitor and will reveal all at the end of this article. Secondly, and more importantly, most solicitors and trainees are satisfied with the Legal Practice Course (LPC), the year-long course that prepares prospective solicitors for the start of their training contract.

That is the main conclusion drawn from the responses of 850 trainees and solicitors in a research project by Nottingham Law School. But the project also found that the LPC could improve further to meet the needs of the profession, so that trainees are even better prepared — a view held by some City law firms.

The LPC is now in its third year. It replaced the much-criticised Law Society Finals (LSF) course, which was a knowledge-based, centrally examined course. The LPC was brought in to be more relevant: it teaches students substantive law and procedures, practical legal skills and professional conduct, and is assessed by those providing the course around the country.

There are more than 30 providers in England and Wales, each offering their own version of the LPC within areas defined by the Law Society. (This, and indeed the LPC's existence, still surprises many solicitors.)

The chief aim of the LPC is to prepare students to enter a two-year training contract with law firms that ultimately leads to qualification as a solicitor. The responses of solicitors and trainees show that it is meeting this objective, a particularly pleasing finding given the off-field belief that

Yet the LPC is to undergo a review by the Law Society, with relevant changes to take effect in September 1997. The results of Nottingham Law School's research suggest that this review must address certain areas.

Solicitors always used to have to learn accounts. There is strong support for bringing back an accounts course into the LPC, linked with promoting greater financial awareness. Accounts are currently covered on the Professional Skills Course, undertaken during the training contract.

trainees because of their frequent use in the training contract. The oral skills of negotiation, interviewing and advocacy are viewed as only slightly less important, but the opportunities to practise them come up less often. This suggests that the balance between the oral and written skills on the LPC needs to be considered. Some comments by solicitors suggest a fall in standards of writing among trainees; but it was also suggested that this reflects a general decline in standards of grammar and language in all stages of education.

A final area for consideration is that of the place of substantive law. Though statistics show that solicitors are generally satisfied with the legal knowledge of trainees, that is tempered by comments from others who suggest trainees are wanting in their overall knowledge of substantive law.

If so, it may be necessary to look at how such knowledge should be acquired. Students should acquire knowledge of the basic principles of contract law, torts, trusts and the like during their degree or equivalent course. The LPC should then give students the opportunity to utilise these principles within transactional and procedural frameworks, as they will in practice.

The review will allow the profession to comment on what it wants from the course. The investment that firms make in recruiting and training is such that they should not pass up the opportunity. LPC providers can then continue to design courses to meet the profession's needs.

If you seek the ideal composite trainee, our research shows that the successful candidate should possess the following: an extensive legal knowledge ranging from the basics of agricultural law to an in-depth awareness of derivative and

mortgage securitisation; a sense of humour tempered by a serious attitude; the combined skills of Edward de Bono, Bill Gates, a second-hand car salesman, Jeremy Paxman, Paul McKenna and a Fellow of All Souls; a burning desire to undertake only quality work; a devotion to their firm which rivals their love for their parents; and a need for sleep that rivals Napoleon on a particularly insomniac night. If you can also pretend to know a lot about wine and opera when all around you do, too, you will be the perfect trainee.

● The author is Principal Lecturer and Director of Nottingham Law School LPC Research Project.
● Copies of The Legal Practice Course — Benefits in Practice, price £20, are available from Lady Hill at Nottingham Law School, Belgrave Centre, Chaucer Street, Nottingham NG1 2LP. Cheques payable to Nottingham Law School Limited.

A case of crime as entertainment

After a hard day dealing with unreasonable clients, irritable judges and impossible colleagues, lawyers like to relax by watching television programmes in which fictional lawyers struggle against, and sometimes overcome, these barriers to fame, fortune and happiness.

In the 1960s, Perry Mason conducted 284 trials on television as a defence attorney. He lost only one, and that conviction was reversed on appeal. In the 1990s, the audience is more knowledgeable, cynical and demanding. Rumpole of the Bailey and Kavanagh QC now tell us more about lawyers than Perry Mason would have thought decent. But no television drama has previously captured the tension, the drama and the raw unpredictability of legal practice as powerfully as *Murder One*, the second episode of which will be shown on BBC2 tonight.

Steven Bochco, creator of *Hill Street Blues* and *LA Law*, has produced a series of 23 episodes in which the Los Angeles defence lawyer Ted Hoffman (played by Daniel Benzali) defends his client against a charge of murder. In episode one, Hoffman was acting for Richard Cross, a philanthropist who owns a building in Hollywood in which a 15-year-old girl, Jessica Costello, was raped and murdered. There is no evidence of forced entry to her apartment. Cross is having a sexual relationship with Jessica's sister. He told the police that he had not been in the building for a week, but a security videotape recorded him leaving the scene at about the time the crime was committed. The police charge him with murder.

The charge is not pursued because another woman comes forward to say that she was with Cross that night, and when they arrived at the building, Jessica was already dead. A murder charge is then brought against another of Hoffman's clients, Neil Avedon, a film star addicted to alcohol and drugs, who had sex with Jessica on the night she was murdered. Cross mysteriously agrees to allow Hoffman to represent Avedon, even though Hoffman warns Cross that it may well be necessary for him, as Avedon's lawyer, to suggest to the jury that Cross was the murderer.

As the series develops (it is also being broadcast on Sky Movies, Sundays at 9pm, where it has now reached episode ten), *Murder One* presents a vivid portrait of a legal world, public and private, which retains only a precarious link with truth, justice and sanity. When Hoffman enters court on behalf of Avedon to plea-bargain a charge of strangling a woman in a hotel lobby, he can only "hope that the judge is in a good mood". After

his submissions, the judge asks Hoffman to approach the bench, and inquires of him: "Don't you sometimes make yourself sick?" Young lawyers in Hoffman and Associates scheme and manipulate to be chosen for "the second chair". The media are obsessed with what they call "the Goldilocks murder", and make it difficult for Avedon to receive a fair trial.

Hoffman struggles to maintain his integrity in a world full of unprincipled sharks, some of them in legal practice. Hoffman knows the law, but he also knows his way around the city. When the District Attorney, anxious about his pending election campaign, suggests to Hoffman that "there's a deal to be struck here", Hoffman replies: "Not one that helps my client." He tells his mendacious clients that "the whole truth is a pretty ambitious goal. But do tell me the truth I need to know."

The trials of Hoffman are compelling even if the pressures he faces are outside the range of experience of most lawyers. When Hoffman arrives home, his wife tells him that "CNN called five times and Nigel somebody from the London Times needs you to call him back as soon as possible". The solicitors representing the Prince and Princess of Wales will know the feeling. Perhaps they have given their clients the advice proffered by Hoffman to Avedon: "Go home, lock your door, don't talk to anyone, and, if you get bored, read a book."

One of the pleasures to be derived from *Murder One* is the opportunity to see again some distinguished members of Steven Bochco's repertoire

of actors. Joe Spano (Detective Henry Goldblum, in *Hill Street Blues*) plays an investigator working on behalf of Hoffman. Barbara Bosson (Mrs Fay Furillo, in *Hill Street Blues*) is Miriam Grasso, the Deputy DA responsible for prosecuting the Avedon case. Any resemblance to Marcia Clark, prosecutor in the O.J. Simpson trial, is far from accidental.

When Hoffman has finished his day's work (dealing with a traitor in the office, or negotiating terms for a television interview with his foolish client), his wife Annie turns off the TV news, which is leading on the latest speculation about the case. She comments, bitterly: "It's crime as entertainment. The whole idea of justice goes out of the window."

As *Murder One* continues, we will have the opportunity to give our own verdict on whether all those conspiring to promote "crime as entertainment" for the public are guilty of causing serious harm to justice.

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



DAVID PANNICK QC

WIN A CHANGE TO WIN

● THE two-day Times Law and Finance Fair opens in Telford International Centre, St Quentin Gate, Telford, Shropshire, today, offering information on training and guidance for students and graduates aiming for a career in law, finance or accountancy. Details: TJW Exhibitions, 01823 433933. Win a chance for a work placement at five top firms. Entry form, page 38.

the purpose of the LPC is to equip students with all the relevant knowledge and skills needed for the training of a solicitor.

As part of the research project, solicitors were asked to compare trainees who had completed the LSF with LPC trainees. The responses suggest the LPC has improved on the LSF. Most respondents stated that levels of knowledge and skills among LPC trainees are the same, or better than those with LSF.

Overall, both trainees and solicitors express satisfaction with the levels of knowledge and skills trainees gain from the LPC. So given its apparent success, it is tempting to let it rest on its legal laurels. After all, the LSF (universally accepted as flawed because of its teaching methods of rote and regurgitation) was allowed to run almost unchanged for 14 years.

But there is clearly a need for trainees to understand, from the start of their contract, the financial and commercial aspects of transactions with which they are involved.

Secondly, the LPC brought in the concept of option subjects, to allow students to study chosen areas of law practised by the firm where they train. Though these have been a success, many trainees would like their LPC to be even more directed to their future career. Solicitors also indicated they would like their trainees to start with a greater background knowledge of the areas of law that the firm practises. This could be achieved by offering different versions of the course, each directed and weighted towards a specific type of practice and tailored to students' needs.

The skills of writing, drafting and research are seen as of paramount importance for

across the country tackle the problem must be, she claimed, "monstrous".

A partner at Bell & Bunton has since come up with a solution: "It will fit in the frame if you cut off the Law Society's coat of arms."

Celebration

THE LAW faculty at Cambridge University was celebrating last week: the Queen opened its new building (designed by Sir Norman Foster), which brings one of the largest and oldest law faculties in the country on to one site.

The faculty, now at the Sidgwick site, also has three specialist research centres on international law, European legal studies and the Wolfson Institute of Criminology.

SCRIVENOR

Judges show their clause

WHETHER or not Michael Howard is forced to amend his sentencing plans after last week's onslaught by the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor of Gosforth, judges may have their own methods of getting around minimum sentences.

The knack has been highlighted by Anne Rafferty, QC, the chairman of the Criminal Bar Association. In the March CBA newsletter she says the Home Secretary's proposals are "wrong" and "foolish". She adds: "The remaining nail in the coffin must be the escape clause. The judiciary is well-practised in continuing to bring the facts within an 'exceptional' category — ask any barrister

who has watched a successful manslaughter mitigation being translated into 'exceptional circumstances' to justify a non-custodial sentence. They will do the same if need be to circumvent legislation which they find constrictive of their independence."

Chinese justice

BARBARA MILLS, QC, the Director of Public Prosecutions, returns today from a ten-day trip to China where she has been enlightening the prosecuting authorities and legal profession on aspects of criminal justice in Britain.

A spokesman for the CPS said: "I think they have been

amazed to hear about such practices as the prosecution disclosing evidence to the defence."

Size matters

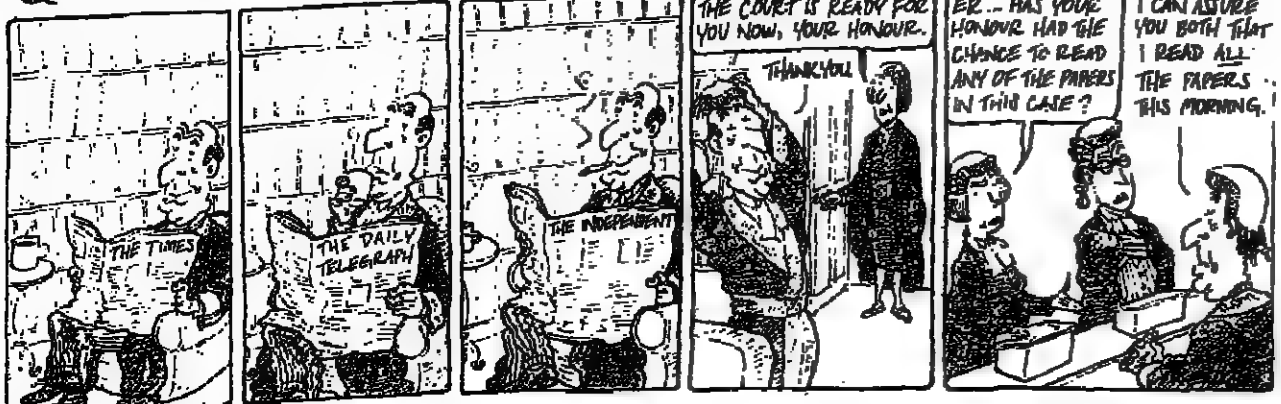
THE Law Society is at last overcoming delays in the issuing of practising certificates caused by problems with its new computer system.

But what really upset Mary Butler, a Sheffield solicitor, is that when she finally received her new certificate it was twice the size of the old one.

In a letter to the *Law Society Gazette*, she complains of the time wasted trying to fit it into her old frame. The loss of charging time as solicitors

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مكتبة الأما

David McIntosh believes the Law Society no longer has anything worthwhile to offer



Martin Mears, the current president, and distinguished former presidents Sir Desmond Heap, Sir David Napley, Sir Max Williams and Rodger Pannone

Did Law Society members get it wrong when they voted Martin Mears their president? In the light of continuing discord at Chancery Lane, were they influenced in his favour because of his anti-establishment bias and declared determination to bring to an end the "Buggins's turn" approach towards my profession's highest office?

That approach, with only a few notable exceptions, has given the society some presidents whose biggest claim to recognition within the legal profession, let alone beyond, has been achieving that office. What if the other candidate had been elected? Henry Hodge would have justified what seems from his CV to have been more than a lifetime of Law Society-type committee work for almost every conceivable good cause.

John Young, had he not been accused of sexual harassment, would also have qualified as a Chancery Lane-moulded president. Both would have fitted in with the "your turn next" attitude that has undermined the society's effectiveness. Eileen Pembroke would have had the distinction of being the first lady president at a time when 50 per cent of newly qualified solicitors are women.

At the moment Martin Mears will, at the very least, be remembered as someone brave enough to have taken on the vested interests at Chancery Lane. If he can rise above the petty spitefulness, about

The trouble with our presidents

which Eileen Pembroke has publicly complained, and provide the leadership he promised in the face of an embarrased council, a mould which has not served the solicitors' profession at all well will have been broken.

The Law Society's election process towards the office of president has rarely produced the right person for the occasion. How many members eligible to vote in the recent election who read this piece will be able to reel off from memory even the last five of our presidents?

At the risk of being invidious only Sir Desmond Heap (1972-73) of Corporation of London fame; Sir David Napley (1976-77), criminal practitioner par excellence; Sir Max Williams (1982-83), senior partner in one of our largest law firms; and Rodger Pannone (1993-94), included by *The Sunday Times* as one of the individuals likely to influence society at the millennium, spring to my mind as presidents the vast majority of their fellow practitioners knew about for reasons unconnected with serving on Law Society committees.

Lord Goodman, the solicitor with the greatest public claim to fame over the past 40 years, and somebody who would regularly have won any Law Society presidential opinion poll, was never in the pecking order for the job when many lesser solicitors were. Was this merely because the possibility of working through the society's electoral machine was a

disposal who have already won the approbation of their profession.

Notwithstanding the wind of change which Mr Mears's contested victory heralded, solicitors are still likely for some time to suffer from a spate of local Law Society and Chancery Lane-made presidents.

This is because thus far Mr Mears has failed to impress in representing the best interests of my profession. He campaigned for office on the basis that the Law Society had become too bloated and out of touch with ordinary solicitors and yet, with his deputy Robert Sayer, seems himself to be

out of touch with the needs of the lifeblood of my profession — its clients.

Mr Mears's calls for quota controls over the number of students wishing to qualify as solicitors, and his campaigning, with Mr Sayer, against those who advertise their willingness to undertake cut-price conveyancing, while failing to discourage distasteful advertising and the buying of lists of accident victims' names from middlemen by ambulance chasers, smacks of a trade

'He seems to be out of touch with the needs of the lifeblood of the profession'

disposal prospect for somebody with so much else to offer?

And how many other outstanding candidates have been lost because their priorities have been to get on with their livelihoods instead of painstakingly laying the foundations for professional office?

The Bar of England and Wales, because its leader is elected from its top practitioners — not from committee men on a "you're next" basis — has regularly enjoyed distinguished leadership from indi-

viduals who have already won the approbation of their profession.

Continuing problems, such as being at loggerheads with Sue Stapley, the Law Society's chief PRO, play into the hands of the "Bugginses" already in the system who are awaiting their deferred turns. They will continue to stand in the way of "outsiders" who have outstanding reputations as lawyers and who, if they led my profession, would enhance, not just adorn, it.

Had the last election not been confined to a choice from among council members, perhaps candidates of greater all-round appeal would have emerged and more than 20 per cent of those of us eligible to vote would have done so. Such a small response to a postal ballot in itself smacks more of a protest than participation.

How can the best available talent come through the council of the Law Society as the only possible choices for president when 35 per cent of all solicitors practise in London with only 20 per cent of seats allocated to them? This is a wholly unsatisfactory regional bias.

No wonder most solicitors did not care enough about the Law Society even to exercise their right to vote in its last presidential elections. At the moment many of us no longer believe the Law Society has anything worthwhile to offer.

● The author is senior partner at Davies Arnold Cooper.

Battle of the beaches

British lawyers are helping to rebuild the new Yugoslavia

No sooner had the sanctions been lifted on Serbia at the end of last month than London lawyers were in the country and working on deals.

Eversheds was represented in a trade delegation to Yugoslavia (now consisting of just Serbia and Montenegro), led by Sir Nicholas Bonsor, a Foreign Office Minister. Mark Harrison, of Eversheds, says the firm is recognised as a "Yugoslav expert" because it was one of the few outfits to remain active in that part of the Balkans during the war.

Now the hostilities have ceased it expects to play a big part in the reconstruction process, especially on behalf of British companies. Many are keen to take part in the redevelopment of the country, Mr Harrison says.

This includes work in Montenegro which hopes to rebuild a sizeable tourist industry along its Adriatic coastline.

Although not quite such a honeypot as South-East Asia, the emerging markets of Central and Eastern Europe remain attractive to law firms. Five years after the fall of communism there is greater realism about the difficulties in developing business there, but as long as the local politicians can introduce a bit of order, then London lawyers are ready to contribute to the law.

One of the most interesting projects, with funding from the World Bank, is being undertaken by Clifford Chance. Working in partnership with two accountancy firms, Ernst & Young and Coopers & Lybrand, the firm is helping to provide technical training in the field of insolvency.

Bankruptcy is a new but rapidly growing phenomenon in Russia and is one of the first fruits of the free market. Sandy Shandro, the Clifford Chance partner who is leading the legal side of the project, says: "One of the things that Western investors want to know is what is going to happen to their money if their clients get into problems."

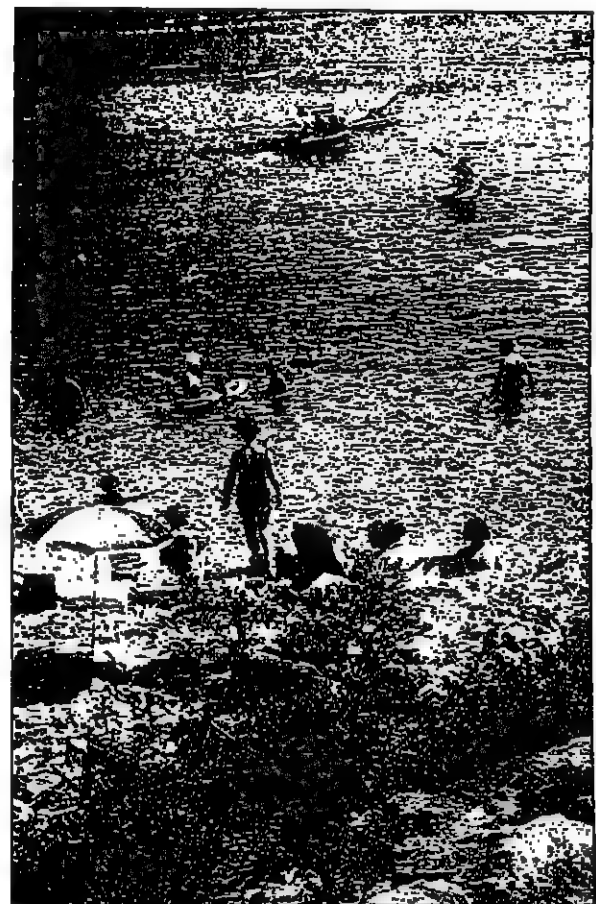
The legal framework for

programme, but this is just the start of a much larger movement. Mr Shandro and his colleagues in the two accountancy firms hope that this will provide a model for a range of other programmes to run throughout Eastern and Central Europe. Moreover, they hope there may be a chance to go on to do further work along the same line with judges.

The new insolvency processes will only work smoothly if administered by judges with a deep understanding of the issues. Again, there is a need for some know-how transfer from the West to help the Russians to deal with this complex and difficult problem.

As business starts to bloom in Central and Eastern Europe, theory will increasingly turn into practice.

EDWARD FENNELL



Past and present: now the new Yugoslavia wants to revive tourism along its Adriatic coastline

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Law Report March 12 1996 Court of Appeal

Power of court to order blood tests to determine paternity

In re H (a Minor) (Blood tests: Parental rights)
Before Lord Justice Neill and Lord Justice Ward
[Judgment March 5]

A mother's adamant refusal of consent to undergo blood testing for herself and her child to establish its paternity was not determinative of the issue whether the alleged putative father's application for a direction under section 20(1) of the Family Law Reform Act 1969 should be granted or refused.

Accordingly, despite the mother's refusal, the court could in the exercise of its discretion make a direction for the use of blood tests. An inference adverse to the refusing party could be drawn irrespective of whether the refusal was made before or after a direction by the court.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by a mother from the decision of Judge Coningsby, QC, sitting as a deputy High Court judge on August 8, 1995 whereby he ordered that the applicant, the mother and the child H, born on December 4, 1994, provide blood samples pursuant to section 20(1) of the 1969 Act for the purpose of DNA tests to ascertain whether such tests showed that the applicant was or was not excluded from being the father of the child.

The applicant, who alleged that he was the putative father of the child, had sought an order giving directions for blood tests under section 20(1) because the mother opposed his application for a parental responsibility order and a contact order with the child.

Although the mother admitted to having a sexual relationship with the applicant at about the time the child was conceived, she was also having a sexual relationship with her husband and she disputed that the applicant was the father.

In 1990 the husband underwent a vasectomy although he did not return for the second test to check the success of that operation. In March 1994 the mother became pregnant and in the early two or three months of the pregnancy there was a clear understanding that she and the applicant would live together and that he would move into the matrimonial home with her when the husband left as he did in May 1994.

In July, she changed her mind and terminated the affair. A year later the husband and the wife were reconciled.

Section 20 of the 1969 Act provides: "(1) In any civil proceedings in which the paternity of any person falls to be determined by the court hearing the proceedings, the court may on an application by any party to the proceedings, give a direction for the use of blood tests to ascertain whether such tests show that a party to the proceedings is or is not thereby excluded from being the father of that person."

Section 21 provides: "(1) ... a blood sample which is required to be taken from any person for the purpose of giving effect to a direction under section 20 ... shall not be taken from that person except with his consent."

Section 20 ... and any person fails to take any step required of him for the purpose of giving effect to the direction, the court may draw such inferences, if any, from that fact as appears proper in the circumstances."

Miss Patricia Scotland, QC and Miss Deborah Archer for the mother; Mr Bruce Blair, QC and Mr Richard Todd for the applicant.

LORD JUSTICE WARD said that the following issues arose on the appeal:

1 Was refusal to undergo blood testing determinative of the application for a direction under section 20(1)?

2 Could an inference adverse to the refusing party be drawn only if the refusal was made after the court had directed the use of blood testing?

3 How did the child's welfare influence the decision?

4 How did the prospects of success in the proceedings influence the decision?

5 What were the child's best interests?

1 Was the refusal determinative?

In *In re F (a Minor) (Blood tests: Parental rights)* [1993] Fam 314 the Court of Appeal posed the question but might not have given a clear answer.

Justice Wall. Did he misdirect himself?

Section 20 did not empower the court to order blood tests, still less to take blood from an unwilling party. All it did was permit a direction for the use of blood tests to ascertain paternity.

The actual order made in the present case that the applicant, the mother and the child "do provide blood samples" was wrongly drawn. It should be varied to provide that "it is directed pursuant to section 20 of the Family Law Reform Act 1969 that blood tests be used to ascertain whether the applicant is or is not excluded from being the father of the child".

If refusal simpliciter were a determinative reason for not giving the direction, then the Act would surely have said so. On the contrary, the express provisions made it clear that Parliament was content to envisage a direction being made notwithstanding that it might never be carried into effect.

The legislature would not have made express provision that a refusal to comply with the direction had a specified consequence if a refusal to submit to tests would have compelled the court not to make any direction at all.

Section 20(1) expressly provided that indirect means, namely, the ability to draw such inference as might be proper from the refusal to take any step required of the party for the purpose of giving effect to the court's direction.

His Lordship concluded, therefore, that whereas refusal was a factor to take into account it could not be determinative of the application and would disagree with the conclusion of Mr Justice Wall in *In re C.B.* Judge Coningsby had not misdirected himself.

2 Could an inference be drawn only if the refusal to give blood samples was made after the court's direction?

Mr Blair supported the judge's conclusion that "the issue of the existence of the statutory provision must be only in the circumstances in which an adverse inference may be drawn as laid down in the Act that any such inference can be drawn and this cannot happen outside the Act".

His Lordship saw the force of that and at first was inclined to accept the submission that if there was a statutory scheme, then the statutory scheme was the only operative scheme.

Mr Blair submitted that the Act permitted an inference to be drawn which until then the court had not been able to do. His Lordship did not agree that that introduced a change to the law of evidence.

Within the criminal law a refusal without reasonable excuse to supply hair samples for scientific examination had been held capable of amounting to corroboration.

The question seemed to his Lordship to be not so much whether a court was entitled to draw an adverse inference but what, if any, inference could be drawn from a refusal. His Lordship, like Mr Justice Wall in *In re*

C.B. saw no intellectual difference between the two situations.

Common sense seemed to dictate that if the truth could be established with certainty, a refusal to produce certainty justified some inference that the refusal was made to hide the truth, even if the inference was not as strong as when the court's direction was flouted.

Although the judge was wrong, it was not such a fundamental misdirection as to require his decision to be set aside. It was not enough by itself to allow the appeal.

3 How did consideration of the child's welfare influence the decision?

The judge correctly directed himself that he should "refuse the test if satisfied it would be against the child's interests to order it".

It was clear, from *S v McC* [1972] AC 24 that whereas welfare was the paramount consideration in deciding the applications for parental responsibility and contact orders, welfare did not dominate the blood testing decision.

4 How did the prospects of success in the proceedings influence the decision?

Reading the relevant authorities, it seemed to his Lordship that the correct approach must be: (a) The paternity issue must be judged as a free standing application entitled to consideration on its own.

(b) The outcome of the proceedings in which the paternity issue had been raised, in so far as it bore on the welfare of the child, had to be taken into account.

(c) Any gain to the child from preventing any disturbance to his security had to be balanced against the loss to him of the certainty of knowing who he was.

(d) The terms of section 10(4) of the Children Act 1989 were explicit in giving a parent a right to apply for contact because they provided: "The following persons are entitled to apply to the court for any section 8 order with respect to a child - (a) any parent ... of the child ..."

There was no statutory justification for transforming the paternity issue into a disguised application for leave to apply and judging the paternity issue by the criteria set out in section 10(9).

(e) Accordingly, while the outcome of the section 8 proceedings and the risk of disruption to the child's life both by the continuance of the paternity issue as well as the pursuit of the section 8 order were obviously factors which impinged on the child's welfare, they were not, in his Lordship's judgment, determinative of the blood testing question.

5 What were the child's best interests?

In his Lordship's judgment, every child had a right to know the truth unless his welfare clearly justified the cover up. The right to know was acknowledged in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Treaty Series No 44 of 1992) (Cm 1976) which had been ratified by the United Kingdom and in particular article 7 which provided that a child had "as far as possible, the right to know and be cared for

by his or her parents". Section 56 of the Family Law Act 1986 gave H the right to apply for a declaration "that a person named in the application is or was his parent; or (b) that he is the legitimate child of his parents".

If, as she should, the mother was to bring up her children to believe and act by the maxim, which was her duty to teach them at her knee, that honesty was the best policy, then she should not sabotage that lesson by living a lie.

If the child had a right to know, then the sooner it was told the better. The issue of biological parentage should be divorced from psychological parentage.

Acknowledging the applicant's parental responsibility should not affect the husband's social respect as the father of a child whom he was so admirably prepared to care for and love irrespective of whether or not he was the father.

If the cracks in the marriage were so wide that they would be rent asunder by the truth then the piece of paper which dismissed the application hardly seemed advisable enough to bind them together.

If H grew up knowing the truth, that would not undermine his attachment to his father figure and he would cope with knowing he had two fathers. Better that than a time-bomb ticking away.

Accordingly, his Lordship would dismiss the appeal.

Lord Justice Neill agreed.
Solicitors: Robert Blackford & Co, Croydon; Ormerod Wilkinson Marshall, Croydon.

Walking possession justifies breaking in

McLeod v Butterwick

Before Lord Justice Cooke
[Judgment February 13]

Where a sheriff already had walking possession of goods under a writ of fieri facias and, seeking to gain actual possession of the goods he found the householder away and the house locked, he lawfully broke the lock in order to gain access to the house to seize the goods.

Judge Roger Cooke, sitting as a judge of the Chancery Division, so held on a motion issued by Mrs Sally McLeod against Anthony J. Butterwick, then High Sheriff of Greater London, seeking an injunction to restrain him from selling various goods and effects which were removed from her home at Berkeley Avenue, Greenford, Ealing, on December 19, 1995 and from entering her house unless by order of a court of competent jurisdiction made on notice after an inter partes hearing.

Mrs McLeod in person; Mr David Eady, QC and Miss Philippa Whipple for the sheriff.

HIS LORDSHIP said that Mrs McLeod was indebted to a judgment creditor in the sum of £7,255.43. When the debt was not paid the judgment creditor issued a writ of fieri facias to the Sheriff of Greater London.

On January 24, 1996 the sheriff's officers attended the plaintiff's premises, obtained peaceable entry and made a formal seizure of various goods. By a judgment of Mr Nigel Baker, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division on December 13, 1995, it was held that that amounted to taking walking possession of the goods.

and the house was locked. The sheriff's officer called a locksmith and broke in. He removed the locks to make the premises secure.

Mrs McLeod now sought to restrain the sheriff from selling the goods on the ground that his actions, through his officer, were unlawful.

The case law on the law of execution was ancient. In *Lee v Connel* (1774) 1 Cowp Rep 1, 6, Lord Mansfield, Lord Chief Justice, stated: "that breaking open the outer door was a trespass but that taking away the goods was lawful." Thus it was clear that even if the sheriff's entry into the house had been unlawful, the seizure of the goods was effective and the goods could be sold.

His Lordship proceeded on the basis that the sheriff had obtained walking possession of the goods on his original attendance at the house under the writ of fieri facias on January 24. The question was, had he been entitled lawfully to break into the house under that walking possession in order to seize the goods?

The starting point was the celebrated authority *Sennay's Case* (1604) 5 Co Rep 91a, the opening proposition of which was "the house of every one is his castle".

Further propositions recited in that case established that "where the door is open the sheriff may enter, and do execution at the suit of a subject ... [but] it is not lawful for the sheriff, on request made and denial, at the suit of a common person, to break the defendant's house, sell, to execute any process at the suit of the subject".

Mrs McLeod relied heavily on the "castle principle". Mr Eady agreed that the castle principle applied to an original entry to take possession of goods; you could not

simply break into somebody's house with your writ of fieri facias and seize their goods without more.

But, he said, once you had possession of the goods, in this case walking possession, you were entitled to come back and resume that possession and if you were debarred from entering by the act of the debtor, then you could break in to get that which, by definition, was now yours.

It was easier to perceive that principle from the cases in which the debtor had actually used force to keep the sheriff out. There was no case directly in point where the door was simply locked, as it were, neutrally, without any particular intention being manifested.

In *Feldman's The Law Relating to Entry Search and Seizure* (1986) paragraph 3.19 it was stated that "the bailiffs who have been expelled from the premises in the course of lawful execution lawfully conducted may re-enter by force to complete the execution".

That treated the second entry as really a continuation of the original lawful entry which had been merely interrupted, not ended by the unlawful expulsion.

The authorities for that proposition were *Aga Karubodie Mahomed v The Queen* (1843) 4 Moo PC 239; *Pugh v Griffith* (1838) 7 Ad & El 827; and *Bannister v Hyde* (1860) 2 E & E 627.

His Lordship considered the authorities and concluded that where the judgment debtor forcibly excluded the sheriff, force could be used to retake or continue the taking of possession which had already been taken, as it had been here.

The real question was: did the principle extend to cases where in fact the premises were locked, not because the house owner was deliberately trying to exclude the sheriff, but simply where, put

neutrally, the householder had locked the house?

The difficulty with qualifying the principle in such a case was that the point of view of the sheriff's officer, who was coming to execute his writ and coming to take, physically, possession of that which he already had by operation of law, he did not know why he was being kept out.

It seemed to follow, as a matter of strict reasoning, that whatever the case, if he came back to continue the possession which started as walking possession by taking possession and the door was barred against him he could break through it. That being so, he was right to do it in this case too.

That appeared to have been the accepted practice of sheriffs in Greater London and in other counties for a long period. That practice, in modern conditions, his Lordship viewed with some disquiet.

It was all very well in an earlier world where it was most unusual for a house to be locked, bolted and barred unless there was an intention. Today people were frequently out and about their lawful business, both sexes working, mothers out with their children in circumstances that in the nineteenth century would have seemed odd and unusual but which today one took for granted.

His Lordship felt that the practice was due for review and that the law of execution generally would merit the attention of the Law Commission, sooner rather than later.

However, Mr Eady had established that the sheriff had not acted unlawfully in breaking the lock in order to gain access to the house to seize the goods over which he already had a right of walking possession and Mrs McLeod's motion would be dismissed.

Solicitors: Burchell & Ruston.

Westminster City Council v Haywood and Another

Before Mr Justice Robert Walker
[Judgment February 22]

The steps which the Pensions Ombudsman had jurisdiction to direct to be taken, after his investigation pursuant to section 16(1) of the Pension Schemes Act 1993, in response to a complaint of injustice sustained in consequence of maladministration by the trustees, manager, or employer concerned in a relevant pension scheme, included the payment of a reasonable sum of money by way of compensation in respect of such injustice; but they could not include a direction for the payment to the complainant of sums whose payment it would be ultra vires such payer to make.

Mr Justice Robert Walker so held in the Chancery Division, in allowing in part an appeal by Westminster City Council against a decision dated July 1995 of the second respondent, the Pensions Ombudsman, whereby he directed the council (i) to reinstate the level of their monthly gross payments of pension to the first respondent, Jeffrey James Haywood, to what it would have been had it not been reduced in February 1993, (ii) to pay back with interest such reductions and (iii) to pay him £1,000 as compensation for "distress and inconvenience".

On January 17, 1992 the council gave Mr Haywood notice of redundancy with effect from April 12, 1992, which qualified him for payments under their severance and compensation schemes.

Elected to take the benefits applicable to those over 50 on dismissal, he received (a) superannuation fund payments under the Superannuation Act 1972, (b) payments under a compensation scheme under the Greater London Council (General Powers) Act 1968 which awarded a

similar Act of 1921. By virtue of both, he received lump sums and in addition (a) an annual retirement pension, under the 1972 Act, of £7,361.16 and (b) a compensation annuity, under the compensation scheme, of £3,949.97.

Subsequently the council received legal advice that the latter was in excess of their power under the 1921 Act and accordingly, from February 1993, they reduced his scheme payments by £1,894.17 a year.

On March 1, 1993 Mr Haywood complained to the Pensions Ombudsman, alleging that at the time he was made redundant the council misled him about his pension entitlement.

Miss Elizabeth Slade, QC and Mr Charles Bear for the council; Mr Andrew Arden, QC and Mr Andrew Diamond for the Pensions Ombudsman; Mr Haywood did not appear and was not represented.

MR JUSTICE ROBERT WALKER said that the most important features of the ombudsman's powers, by virtue of Part X of the Pension Schemes Act 1993, seemed to be (a) he might investigate and determine not only any complaint alleging injustice in consequence of maladministration, but also any dispute of fact or law, (b) there was no requirement that legal remedies must first have been exhausted, (c) he could be appealed on a question of law only, (d) he could refer any question of law directly to the High Court, (e) his determination might direct the trustees or manager of any scheme, or, by regulation 2 of the Personal and Occupational Pension Schemes (Pension Ombudsman) Regulations (SI 1991 No 588), any employer, to take, or refrain from taking, such steps as he might specify and (f) he had the powers of a county court.

Those provisions recognised that complaints about pension rights often involved difficult points of law: countless ill-drafted schemes, drafted hurriedly during the 1970s and 80s, were out there somewhere, like rusty unexploded landmines, so the ombudsman's task was dauntingly difficult.

The first two issues related to the ombudsman's jurisdiction. 1 Miss Slade submitted that he had no power, since Mr Haywood's complaint related to no payment out of funds subject to the regulations, but only to payments, out of the rates, under the scheme.

But his Lordship thought the question should be answered in the round. There was an analogy in family law: whether the facts gave rise to a single, or more than one settlement: see *Roome v Edwards* (1982) AC 279, 283-3 per Lord Wilberforce.

All relevant facts had to be looked at in a practical manner. Here, what tipped a nicely poised balance was that the council themselves, communicating with employees and pensioners, had drawn little or no distinction between the two types of payment.

His Lordship was, narrowly, persuaded that that challenge failed. 2 In relation to a public service pension scheme the effect of the regulations was to give the ombudsman jurisdiction to investigate a "complaint" under section 14(1) of the 1993 Act, but not a "dispute" under section 14(2).

But few applicants were likely to use either word. An example of a dispute would be one as to fact, which trustees, without adopting any final view, suggested to a member that he refer to the ombudsman.

That dispute might have turned into a complaint, had the trustees taken a final view and acted on it in a way to cause the member injustice in consequence of maladministration.

It seemed that the only way of making sense of the regulations, or avoiding attenuation of the ombudsman's jurisdiction to derogatory dimensions, was to recognise that the complaint/dispute classification had to be made by the ombudsman himself. So that council challenge also failed.

3 Was the ombudsman justified in directing the council to resume payments, as compensation for loss of employment, to Mr Haywood which, on unchallenged advice given after *Allison v North Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council* (1992) ICR 639 CA, they could not lawfully pay?

Mr Arden's contention, that they must have had the power to put right their wrong advice to Mr Haywood by paying him money, had been countered by Miss Slade's citation of *Hazel v Hamersmith and Fulham London Borough Council* (1992) AC 1, 38 per Lord Templeman: a corporation could not "avoid ... litigation by agreeing, by way of compromise, to carry out an unlawful act".

After setting out the facts, the ombudsman's decision stated that

"an employer entering an agreement which was necessarily ultra vires ... would undoubtedly be guilty of maladministration". There, he erred in law: to take a wrong legal view was neither necessarily maladministration nor even negligent, see *Rowling v Takara Properties Ltd* (1993) AC 473, 502, although taking and acting on a wrong legal view might be maladministration if a decision-maker knew, or ought to have known, that the law was uncertain and those likely to be affected needed to be warned.

But here, the ombudsman's decision: (a) wrongly assumed that any mistake by a local authority as to its statutory powers must constitute maladministration, (b) failed to identify the injustice suffered thereby and (c) directed the council to take steps which could not possibly be appropriate compensation for any injustice suffered.

His finding that they failed to warn Mr Haywood about doubts which they should have had about the scheme and his conclusion that that was maladministration could not be labelled perverse, but there was a gap between that conclusion and the compensation he directed.

Compensation for misrepresentation should put a plaintiff in the same position as if his information, not put him where he would have been, had the incorrect information been correct: *Banque Bruxelles Lambert SA v Eagle Star Insurance Co Ltd* (1993) QB 365, 404. The council's appeal therefore succeeded on that issue.

4 Was the ombudsman entitled to direct the council to pay £1,000 as compensation for distress and inconvenience? If he had no such power, many complainants might be left remediless; but if he had, why did Parliament not say so?

In the end, Miss Slade's powerful argument had not overcome his Lordship's strong inclination to construe what the 1993 Act said about the ombudsman's powers in such a way as to effectuate what he took to be its purpose.

Finally, she had urged the award was so high as to be perverse; but although it was on the high side, his Lordship had not been persuaded that to pay roughly a month's national average earnings to an ex-employee with 24 years of service was so excessive as to be wrong in law.

Solicitors: Mr Colin Wilson, Westminster; Paisner & Co.

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Particulars in VAT charges preferred

Regina v Choudhury

Regina v Uddin

Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith,
Mr Justice Buckley and Judge Hyam
[Judgment February 29]

Where facts permitted and the information was available, it was preferable that the jury should be told of the offences identified in the particulars. Since that direction was not given, theoretically at least it was possible that the jury might have been split in respect of, for example, six might have thought the appellants were involved in suppressing bills and the remaining six might not have been satisfied of that but thought that he was involved in furnishing false information to the Commissioners.

Mr Justice Stuart-Smith, in the words of section 39(3), he submitted that the section came into being precisely because there were cases where no more than a general deficiency was established but that deficiency was so striking that it was possible to say that a fraud had been perpetrated but impossible to say how it was done.

The reality of the instant case was that from each of the three restaurants night after night broadly the same fraud was set in motion, namely up to 40 per cent of bills given to customers were thrown away. That was the factual foundation of everything that followed.

Their Lordships considered the summing up as a whole and were satisfied that Mr Morse was correct that in the circumstances neither of the convictions was unsafe.

Their Lordships did not wish to interfere with the discretion of the prosecuting authorities because cases differed widely but if the facts permitted it was desirable that factual particulars relied on were framed within the indictment. That would prevent problems of the sort which had arisen in this case.

Solicitors: Solicitor, Customs & Excise.

three offences covered by sections 39(1) and (2).

Mr Bell submitted that the judge failed to direct the jury that they had to be unanimous as to at least one of the offences identified in the particulars. Since that direction was not given, theoretically at least it was possible that the jury might have been split in respect of, for example, six might have thought the appellants were involved in suppressing bills and the remaining six might not have been satisfied of that but thought that he was involved in furnishing false information to the Commissioners.

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Solicitors: Solicitor, Customs & Excise.

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POP

Not talking
about your
generation: why
Radio 1's boss
is right to banish
old rockers



MUSIC 1

After Sibelius: a
two-year festival
introduces an
exciting new
generation of
Nordic composers

THE TIMES
ARTS

MUSIC 2

Violin virtuoso
Midori gives
a consummate
display of
musicianship at
the Barbican



DANCE

Lea Anderson
wittily reverses
the roles of
audience and
performers on
the South Bank

Scandinavian
airs service

Over the next two years, British
ears will be opened to the best new
and unfamiliar Nordic music

Dark and true and tender is the North. Or so Tennyson and the Barbican would have us believe three years ago when the long saga of the arts in the Nordic countries was told in the space of a month-long festival.

Eager to capitalise on the success of *Tender is the North*, the Nordic Music Committee and the music information centres of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden have now created a Nordic Music Season in the UK, starting today.

New Nordic music will be premiered by the Nash Ensemble and their Finnish counterparts, Avant! A new Icelandic opera by Karolina Eiriksdottir opens on Thursday; the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra, under Neeme Järvi, will present a Sibelius cycle at the Barbican in April, and a Nordic week is planned in Birmingham in October.

So what is it all about? Is Nordic music really distinctive? Or is it rather, in the words of the Icelandic poet Johann Hjalmarsson, a case of "not the land, but an idea of a land waiting to be settled by an alien dream"? The output of Nordic composers over the past 50 years, as more of them travelled through Europe, is as rich and varied as the Nordic landscapes. But is it really related to them in anything other than our own imaginations?

Anssi Karttunen, cellist and artistic director of Avant!, whose concert on March 21 in the Nash Ensemble's Twentieth-Century Music series is one of the seasons of the season, feels strongly that Nordic music began to be interesting only when it ceased to be Nordic. It was no accident that Avant! was formed in 1983. "Until then," Karttunen says, "being Finnish was still a limiting preoccupation among composers. There was a big hang-up about Sibelius. But then musicians began to feel no longer bound by expectations."

Esa-Pekka Salonen and Jukka-Pekka Saraste, both conductors, decided, with a group of kindred spirits, that new music should free itself from esoteric and often short-lived projects. Like the Nash

Ensemble in Britain, Avant! was to be flexible enough in its membership to play not only the newest of the new, but adventurous music from all periods.

The influence of Avant! had far-reaching effects on Finnish composers. When planning their London programme, Avant! found that Finland had a uniquely broad repertoire of new chamber music written for between nine and 25 players.

They have chosen to represent three generations of Finnish composers, "so that the audience can try to hear what being Finnish may be, or not be". At 62, Usko Merilainen "writes in simultaneous layers of colours and ideas. You can take a tiny measure of his music and admire its construction, like a jewel."

Magnus Lindberg, one of the loudest and most influential voices in the Finnish avant-garde, is represented by his Clarinet Quintet of 1992 — "probably his first work in a classical form".

And Seppo Pohjola, the best-known composer of the younger generation, is the third. "As his Second String Quartet shows, he has found an ease with himself," Karttunen says. "He's an explorer in each piece."

Perhaps it is this sense of restless exploration which defines new Nordic writing most clearly. Avant! is currently sailing onwards yet again, travelling "Around the World in 20 Concerts" and presenting Helsinki with music from America, Brazil, Russia, Spain and The Netherlands. "With borders breaking down," says Karttunen, "it's important to discover not only what is unknown, but also what we think is well known. The function of culture is to regenerate, to activate. We have a responsibility."

HILARY FINCH

• The Nash Ensemble plays *Sandstrom*, Nordheim and Nordheim, Purcell Room, South Bank, London SE1 0171-400 4242, to-night 7.30pm
• Karolina Eiriksdottir's chamber opera, I have seen someone, Riverside Studios, London W6 (0181-741 2255), Thurs-Sat
• Avant! plays Merilainen, Lindberg and Pohjola, Purcell Room, 7.30pm March 21



Matthew Bannister, Controller of Radio 1, the most "forward-looking, independently minded national radio station since the Sixties"

It's wonderful, Radio 1

The BBC is right to exclude old rockers from a station
attracting big young audiences, says David Sinclair

The uproar that greeted Radio 1's decision not to play the new singles by Status Quo and the Beatles has provided great publicity not only for the acts concerned, but also for Radio 1 itself. Indeed, the Status Quo stunt — in which the band issued a writ claiming £250,000 in damages from the station for refusing to play their records — was welcomed with open merriment at Radio 1. After all, what better way to reinforce the new youthful image that the station has been strenuously trying to establish during the last couple of years than to have a bunch of supernumerary rockers arguing the toss about a dismal version of a song — *Fun, Fun, Fun* — written more than 30 years ago?

The Beatles' complaints have been taken more seriously, since their material is still widely perceived as a touchstone of popular music culture. Indeed, at 9am today Radio 1 will play the new Beatles single alongside an hour's worth of "vintage" Beatles material. That, of course, is something of a token gesture, following a furious campaign led by Paul McCartney. "Is Radio 1 saying its judgment is better than almost all the British public?" he wrote in yesterday's *Daily*

Mirror. "Is it saying that all the people who bought *Real Love* and put it at No 4 in its first week don't know what they like?"

Well, of course not. What Radio 1 is doing is making an accurate value judgment of a record that simply doesn't hold up in terms of its listener profile.

As I understand it, Radio 1 does not exclude artists from its playlist because of their age — records by David Bowie, Sting, Bon Jovi and Queen were among the most played last week — but the days when veteran acts such as Rod Stewart, Cher, Cliff Richard and, yes, Paul McCartney could rely on the station as a meal ticket, irrespective of the merit of their records have, thankfully, long gone.

Instead, Radio 1 has bravely flung open the doors to a vigorous new wave of acts from all points of the contemporary popular music spectrum, and galvanised the

British music industry. It is no accident that the most fecund era in British pop since the Sixties has coincided with this change of programming policy at Radio 1. The old procedure of sticking to the boring and bland imposed a ceiling on the popularity of the great majority of new and emerging

British acts during the Eighties and early Nineties. No matter how successful such artists were on the live circuit or how much they were lionised in the music press, without a high level of exposure on national daytime

radio it was extremely hard for them to achieve the kind of mass appeal the veteran performers enjoyed in their heyday. In stark contrast, Oasis, Blur, Pulp, Supergrass and all the other newcomers since 1994 have enjoyed sustained and enthusiastic support from Radio 1 right from the start.

The argument that Radio 1 is funded by the licence fee and therefore has a duty to feature

certain "popular" acts regardless of merit, is a laughable piece of special pleading. Status Quo's single was *Record of the Week* on Radio 2, and there are any number of commercial stations happy to play the "new" Beatles song, and all their old ones, until the cows come home.

If anything, the "public service" argument works more forcefully in the opposite direction. Where else can the licence fee-payer turn for the best in new popular music, let alone for the kind of credible specialist programmes that feature the latest developments in rap, jungle, techno and other dance music, of which Radio 1 has become virtually the sole national purveyor?

With Radio 1 defining its brief with such clear-minded rigour, it is true that some music does now fall between the cracks. Radio 2 has expanded its reach to take up a lot of the softer slack, but there are few places on the dial where you would hear music by modern American bands such as Alice In Chains or some of the exemplars of "classic" album rock such as

Aerosmith, Bob Seger or Pink Floyd, and Radio 1 may yet have to make adjustments in this regard.

But the fact is that Britain has not had such a vital, forward-looking, independently minded national radio station since the glory days of pirate radio in the Sixties. And all this reactionary nonsense from old school pop stars is just the bleating of an elite that finds its special privileges under threat.

So, a word of advice to all the old rockers who feel they have a divine right to be included on the nation's best playlist. No one disputes your achievements, nor your freedom to keep making music. Just keep your hands off our new Radio 1.

POP

Power
play

ACKNOWLEDGING the applause at the end of each number, Cast's John Power mutters disarmingly "Nice one", as if we had just bought him a pint. Their debut album, *All Change*, may have hovered around the upper reaches of the charts since its release last October, but Cast are not about to lord it over anyone.

They just get on with the songs. And for most of their set, the numbers fly by, evoking as they pass the ghosts of the Who, the Small Faces and the Move. Each one is lifted by a soaring melody, carried by Power's gently pleading tones, driven by Keith O'Neill's drums and burnished by the harmonies supplied by guitarist Liam Tyson and bassist Peter Wilkinson.

Cast

UEA, Norwich

Cast disdain flamboyance and extravagant gestures. They are not about to give their tunes the hard sell. *Four Walls and Walkaway*, two beautifully understated ballads, are left to fend for themselves. *Sandstorm* and *Back of My Mind* are delivered with the crisp economy of the thriller writer. Only towards the end do Cast threaten to lose the plot.

The sharp pop songs make way for some less certain ventures. Two new songs draw heavily on Sixties psychedelia. They make interesting experiments, but worrying ones: the black hole that is the concept album beckons.

Only with the ominously titled *History*, the last song of the set, does the storyline get truly mangled. With its echoing guitar riffs and flashing lights, it is too grandiose for its own good as it rambles clumsily through the murky swamps of progressive rock.

It is an aberration that is swiftly redeemed as Cast enclose with *Alright*: "I guess I am alright, I guess I'm doing fine." They are, of course, doing much better than that. And they know it.

JOHN STREET



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Donizetti

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NOBODY could ever accuse the Japanese violinist Midori of under-interpreting the works in her repertoire. On the contrary, those who criticise her playing often do so on the grounds that she over-interprets. Her Barbican Celebrity Recital with Robert McDonald on Sunday night may have given some fuel to her critics, but it was a sustained display of consummate technique and musicianship.

The opening movement of Mozart's Sonata in G for Violin and Piano, K379, showed Midori at her most fastidious: caressing every nuance and threatening to smother it with affection. This somewhat precious approach to phrasing, the violinist's equivalent of bonsai, rel-

Such affection
disarms criticism

RECITAL

Midori
Barbican

ishes every exquisite detail, oblivious to the danger of injecting too much feeling into relatively slight creations.

From then on, though, one was utterly captivated by this unique player's musical sensibilities. In an age when executives are frequently censured

for soulless performances, Midori offers something unmistakably personal.

It was there from the start in Schubert's Fantasy in C. The strength of this reading, in which McDonald proved an equal partner, was the clarity with which the work's structure was revealed. The focal point of the piece is Schubert's setting of Ruckert's verse *Sei mir geglaubt*, which gives rise to a set of variations. These players showed how the opening movements lead towards that moment, and how the

later stages look back nostalgically to it. It was a mesmerising demonstration.

Dating from his period in America, before Prokofiev settled in Europe, the *Five Melodies*, a reworking of a set of songs without words, lack the characteristically mordant edge of this composer's music. They are beautifully crafted pieces, however, and the duo delivered them expressively.

Saint-Saëns's Violin Sonata No 1 in D Minor is a haunting piece, at least when given with this kind of style. Midori brought to bear both introspection and richly bowed fervour; McDonald's passage-work was no less dazzling, yet always accommodating the scale of his partner's playing.

BARRY MILLINGTON

You've been a lovely audience

DANCE

The Reverse Effect
Queen Elizabeth Hall

sleep virus. Looking at us sitting inactively on stage, she pondered like any critic, concluding: "It's not heading anywhere. I mean, is it art?"

Anderson's 197 performers for *An Audience with the Victims of Death* began as a noisy horde outside the auditorium. Settled in, they clapped as Steve Blake's mock-rock band, The Victims of Death, arrived; then, im-

pelled by the opening chords, exaggeratedly flattened themselves against their seats, producing the stunning impression of foreshortened perspective.

We on stage giggled, just as we did when they rushed towards us en masse to take up the empty front rows, although this time it was laughter tinged with relief, after the realisation of just how terrifying a human tidal wave can be.

Wayne McGregor, who opened the evening with *Vulture*, was much more concerned with dance. He began with a solo for himself, his extraordinary, narrow, shav-

en-headed silhouette moving bonelessly along an aisle and sometimes dipping to become half-hidden behind seats. If he was avian life from an outer galaxy, then so were the five female dancers who slowly descended the back stairs to take over.

If the future of dance is somewhere, maybe it is here. But *The Reverse Effect* was not meant for pondering big issues. It was fun, and at the stage door you were given a bottle of mineral water to rehydrate your exhausted artist's body. What a shame it ran only over one weekend.

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■ VISUAL ART 1

Striking graffiti, but is it any good as art? The Serpentine shows Jean-Michel Basquiat's work



■ VISUAL ART 2

The North East enjoys a year of fascinating art from some of Britain's top collections

THE TIMES ARTS



■ VISUAL ART 3

At the ICA, *Pandaemonium* breaks out in an intriguing show of video installations



■ TOMORROW

Will Nelson soon be surveying a pedestrian's paradise? Marcus Binney on radical plans for London

The lost poet of New York

Richard Cork on Jean-Michel Basquiat, an extraordinary talent cut short by a heroin overdose

Dying at the age of 27, Jean-Michel Basquiat has subsequently achieved cult status. Even during his life he quickly became celebrated: first as an adroit spray painter of New York buildings under the provocative pseudonym SAMO (code for Same Old Shit), and then as a darling of the Manhattan gallery scene. Highly prolific, he completed more than 500 paintings, often of a Herculean size. Their success proved that a young black artist could be lionised by white America, and his subsequent collaboration with Andy Warhol marked Basquiat's apotheosis as a fashionable prodigy who insisted on working in paint-smeared Armani suits.

But was he any good? Now, for the first time since his death of a heroin overdose in 1988, he has been given a solo exhibition in a British public gallery. It offers an opportunity to discover if Basquiat's work was anything more than the by-product of his legendary charisma. The space at the Serpentine Gallery does not allow more than a fraction of his torrential output to be displayed. But this limitation may well be an advantage. The speed with which he worked inevitably led to slipshod moments: his oeuvre is wildly uneven, so the Serpentine has been well-advised to concentrate on the most memorable images and leave the dross alone.

The first room is enough to confound scepticism. Far from looking like the work of an untutored barbarian, high on his notoriety as a graffiti artist from the streets of Brooklyn, the paintings assembled here

'He didn't know how good he was,' Madonna recalls

testify to the power of his draughtsmanship: at the age of 20 he produced a large canvas called *Untitled (Skull)* which shows how gifted Basquiat really was. It also reveals the turbulence of his imagination, dominated by mortality at an age when most of us relegate death to some reassuringly vague future.

Like so many of his head

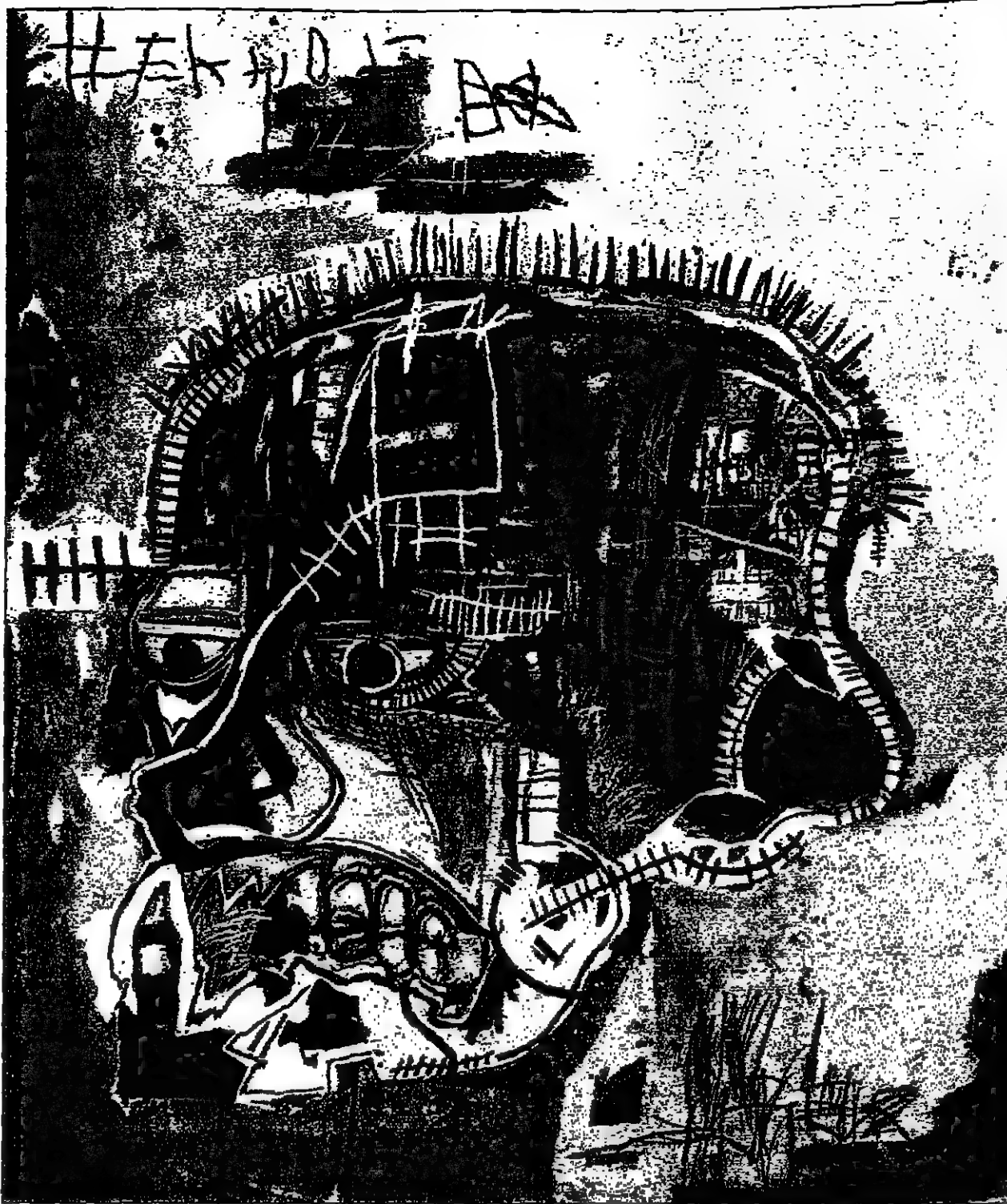
images, *Untitled (Skull)* may be a self-portrait. The teeth have long since decayed, and short, spiky hair sticks up like stubble on a convict's shaven crown. This is a beleaguered face, but its determination remains formidable. The eyes blaze with energy, and the welter of images inside the skull evokes the clangorous urban world that shaped Basquiat's vision.

The dynamism pulsing so paradoxically through this *memento mori* is a measure, too, of Basquiat's ambition. He wanted to succeed, and by 1982 was prepared to proclaim his individuality on the most monumental of canvases. *Boy and Dog in a Johnnypump* is a colossal painting. Using acrylic and oil paintstick as well as spray paint, Basquiat ensures that the entire surface is quickened by his deft,

supple and above all fluent mark-making. Cooling themselves in the water gushing from a city fire hydrant, both boy and animal revel in the cascade. The space around them is brushed, stained and dribbled with a spattered freedom reminiscent of de Kooning at his most unbridled. But the grin on the black boy's mask-like face is threatening as well as joyful. Basquiat appears to be playing with the racist stereotype of the "frightening" black youth. The figure raises his arms in a gesture that might seem aggressive. It also stirs memories of a crucifixion, however. And the lines of thin white pigment running through his body look like the X-ray of a skeleton.

Even at his most exuberant, then, Basquiat could not out-thought of suffering. *Boy and Dog in a Johnnypump* turns out to be a surprisingly complex and ambiguous picture, far removed from the splashy high spirits which give the painting its initial impact. The darker side of Basquiat's imagination was undoubtedly scarred by his awareness of racial intolerance, but it also owes something to the traumatic moment when he was hit by a car at the age of eight. Serious enough to demand a prolonged convalescence, the injury made Basquiat keenly conscious of his own body. The interest was reinforced when his mother gave him a book on human anatomy, and in 1982 he produced a large painting inspired by Leonardo's exquisite

draughtsmanship is nowhere to be seen. Instead, on a canvas that looks like four panels badly joined together, a misshapen head and a scrawny male nude dominate the



Untitled (Skull), 1981, produced at the age of 20. The images evoke the urban world that shaped Basquiat's vision.

painting. A half-naked railway worker lies beside a track meandering across all the panels, and everywhere you look Basquiat has scribbled comments like "bad foot" which give the picture an offhand, diary-like mood.

From then on, words played an increasingly eloquent part in his paintings. *Johnnypump* of an *Ass* contains at its heart an outpouring of writing, as Basquiat's awkward capital letters spell out a host of names, places and events ranging from the pharaohs and Christ to Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, which granted freedom to the black slaves of the Deep South. Images of crowns and cartoon characters are pushed to the sides, where their light-heartedness sits oddly with references to Cleopatra and Sophocles in the centre.

Basquiat delighted in leaping from one world over to another. Many of his paintings resemble enormous urban walls, covered in an apparently random blizzard of drawings, paint-smeared and scrawled messages. But as you move through the exhibition, the seeming arbitrariness takes on a crazy coherence of its own. Basquiat is a poet of the big city, fired by the visual

dislocations bombarding anyone who inhabits a metropolis as jarring as New York.

This accelerating fame, fuelled by the widespread hunger for Neo-Expressionist painting in the 1980s, did not bring Basquiat any peace of mind. Madonna, with whom he had an affair, recalls that "he didn't know how good he was and he was plagued with insecurities". All the evidence suggests that he felt guilty about wealth, and gave most of his money away. But the dollars enabled Basquiat to indulge in the drug habit which killed him. As the show proceeds, there is a sense of the early energy draining away. The collaboration with Warhol diluted Basquiat's art rather than enriching it, and at times his work seems disconcertingly slapdash.

Alongside these signs of deterioration, though, I noticed an increasing awareness of vulnerability. Basquiat's inner plight must have deepened his insights into the human predicament, and the green head looming out of *In Italian* seems far more frail than his previous figures. Written references to the heart and blood punctuate the surrounding space, as if Basquiat was becoming obsessed with the body's capacity to survive.

Not all the late paintings are haunted by presentiments of the end. *Lester Yellow* is an exuberant work, alive with raucous visual and verbal exclamations about the mad pleasures of horse racing. On the whole, however, these final works testify to a gathering awareness of extinction. *Riding with Death*, painted shortly before his fatal overdose, has the character of a final testament. A brown figure rides a skeletal mount, and extends both arms in a gesture reminiscent of his forerunner in *Boy and Dog in a Johnnypump*. Compared with the vitality of that early painting, though, *Riding with Death* is shorn of substance. No flowing water hydrant animates the dun-coloured mist surrounding the rider. It seems impenetrable, ruling out any possibility that words might once again crowd the picture with their garrulous presence. A terminal silence prevails, and even Death is a fragmented animal, barely able to move its blanched bones forward.

● Jean-Michel Basquiat at the Serpentine Gallery (01772 9072) until April 21

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Along the corridor on a series of six monitors is a straightforward piece by Mark Wallinger which shows racing greyhounds, filmed from in front, running a full race in pursuit of an unobtainable mechanical hare.

● *Pandaemonium* at the ICA Galleries, ICA The Mall London SW1 (0171 930 3647) until April 21

AROUND THE GALLERY

MANY of the problems usually encountered by visitors to exhibitions of video and film are carefully circumvented in *Pandaemonium* at the ICA, a show of work by five artists, commissioned from an open submission. Obvious attention to design and context prevents any sensation of being trapped or controlled by the works on show.

Keith Tyson ambitiously attempts, in three dimensions, a free-flowing process of thought and association. A walkway leads through what might be a boat cabin or submarine compartment to a dining space with a healthy family picture on the wall. Outside, but still part of the same project, a machine is wired up to a video monitor; further along, around the structure, there is a model of a Chinese village or camp. The problem with attempting to orchestrate so many references is in knowing where the detail should stop.

A 23-minute film by Michael Curran and Osnat Haber shows next door through a heavy black curtain. A shaven-headed woman is caught by the camera in a corner. A female voice talks about a fascination for someone. The viewing room appears cluttered with leftover exhibition materials, and this helps to create the impression that the real subject of the work is hidden undiscovered in a back store room.

Upstairs three giant screens at sideways angles cast light into a dark room. Three single Londoners, one on each screen, talk about their interests on a particular day. The woman plays with a giant champagne bottle, and then struggles into her bustle for a night out. The man on the left talks about the kind of girl he likes. The other man bashes away at the wall with an improvised rag doll. Each does his or her own thing, apparently impervious to Gillian Wearing's presence and sympathetic filming technique. Somehow the three eventually meet for a blind date in the pub. The woman finds the men boring — "both look like a mess" — one of the men thinks that she loves herself too much. Back in their separate homes they continue: one makes a bucket of tea; the girl takes a snap of herself; the other man bangs the doll against the wall again.

The atmosphere next door is altogether different. Music suggesting loss, in the manner of a black and white "continental" film, accompanies a picture projected onto the wall of a woman sitting near an empty sofa underneath an Impressionist print. The voice of a man focuses attention on the few details present. Jaki Irvine's work fills the room with a heavy sense of absence.

Along the corridor on a series of six monitors is a straightforward piece by Mark Wallinger which shows racing greyhounds, filmed from in front, running a full race in pursuit of an unobtainable mechanical hare.

● *Pandaemonium* at the ICA Galleries, ICA The Mall London SW1 (0171 930 3647) until April 21

THE TIMES OFFERS EVERY READER THREE COMPLIMENTARY CDS

Enjoy The Romantics

Today *The Times* offers readers the opportunity to collect the second of three complimentary CDs of music played by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra — *The Romantics*.

Romantic music can be about love but that subject does not define it. Broadly, Romanticism began as a reaction against the intellectualism and formalism of the Classical era in favour of nature, simplicity and directness. Classical composers wrote works that signalled a new freedom of expression. The headstrong Beethoven wrote for himself, and after him music was never quite the same.

These complimentary recordings, played by one of the country's outstanding orchestras, form an introduction to a music library anyone would be proud to own. (You can still get the first CD *Baroque & Classical* which appeared in yesterday's paper.)

The RPO, whose leading conductors include Sir Charles Mackerras and Lord Menuhin, was founded in 1946 by Sir Thomas Beecham, with the intention of creating a world class ensemble whose emphasis on quality, combined with flexibility would attract the best players in the country.

By exploiting advanced studio microphone techniques together with state-of-the-art digital audio technology, its recordings capture the sound of a full symphony orchestra with unprecedented clarity.

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TOMORROW: HOW YOU CAN GET OUR THIRTEEN COMPILATION — NATIONALISM



The Romantics track listing

1. Beethoven symphony No 9 in D minor Choral 4th movt. Conductor: Raimond Leppard, soloists Gillian Webster, Catherine Wyn-Rogers, Martyn Hill, Robert Heyward (8:14)
2. Schubert symphony No 5 in B flat major. Conductor: Howard Shelley (6:42)
3. Schubert piano quintet in A major Trout 4th movt theme and variations. Director: Jonathan Carney, piano Roman O'Hara (21:49)
4. Tchaikovsky Romeo and Juliet overture. Conductor: Yuri Simeonov (23:49)
5. Chopin piano concerto No 2 in F minor 2nd movt. Conductor: Gilbert Varga, soloist Sequoia Costa (9:26)

The CD has a total playing time of 63:29

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Our trends in the North

IN 1994, Catherine Yass made a photo-portrait of the six members of the Arts Council of England's purchasing committee. *Portrait* forces the viewer to acknowledge that an artist's visibility depends not just on individual talent, but on a network of support and patronage. Yass is a sophisticated artist: she knows she is implicated. The members of the committee are knowing, too — they pose broadly for the camera, tongues firmly in cheek. Then, to complete the work, they bought it.

And here it is, in a Newcastle display (billed, with typical chirpiness, as *Ace*) of the Arts Council's latest acquisitions. It looks very much at home here — witty, provocative, anxious and just a little too pleased with its own anxiety. It's not a bad piece, and it's not a bad show: most of the works, individually, are impressive, but there is a sameness of tone which suggests a laziness in the collecting quite at odds with the energy of the times.

Here, we have an ironic enlargement of an air fresher, an ironic enlargement of a charm from a cheap bracelet, an ironic presentation of a pair of souvenir Dutch clogs in the style of Mondrian. The appearance of the committee

Four top collections have sent works to Tyneside. Charles Hall finds odd selections but a frisson of excitement

in Yass's *Portrait* suggests a similar willingness to turn a kind of moral paralysis into an aesthetic. And this is reflected here by an inability to make critical judgments: we are solemnly assured that, although Tania Kovats's *Grotto* looks real, its rocks, flowers and perfumes are really artificial. In fact they never look like anything but cheap plastic, badly used.

This failing is partly a consequence of committee buying. We see some of the same problems in Newcastle's display of recent acquisitions from the Tate: it is quite an achievement, given the scale of Anish Kapoor's output of beautiful objects, to have selected some oddly inept bangles. Even so, here we see a wider appreciation of what might matter in contemporary art: here is a Bacon triptych, there a Michael Andrews painting of Ayers Rock.

There are also some fine photographs and, most cheering of all, there is Cornelia Parker's wonderful installation, in which she has sus-

ended fragments surviving after she had asked one British institution (the Army) to help her blow up another (the garden shed).

The Tate collection is impressive, but it doesn't have the power to startle of Sunderland's display of works bought by the Contemporary Arts Society over the past three years. The CAS appoints three buyers each year to buy, not as a committee, but according to their own critical judgment and enthusiasm. The selection of buyers is well calculated to deliver quality work across a wide range of conventions and attitudes — from a heavy-weight Basil Beattie to an extraordinarily simple, not to say erotic, computer text work by Tracey McKenna.

This, I think, is where Visual Art UK's coup in getting four of our biggest contemporary collectors to show their works really pays off. Everyone must know by now that the art world is in a state of high excitement about something — but this is the first place that I have felt conscious

of the energy in one room. There is no way of summarising what is happening, because part of the excitement is that such good work is being made in so many fields.

This broad-mindedness extends to the CAS's willingness to show its crafts collection alongside its fine art. It was good to see the bafflement of fine art specialists confronted with, say, Caroline Broadhead's explorations of the idea that clothes construct and confine their wearers' identities long anticipated the supposedly avant-garde sculptures of Jana Sterbak.

The Crafts Council collection itself, which is also now on show in Gateshead, looks tame by comparison. Perhaps makers are increasingly constrained by commercial anxieties — but it is hard to see why the Crafts Council should be timid, too.

● *Ace* Recent Acquisitions by the Arts Council, Hutton Gallery, Newcastle, until April 13

● *Tate on the Tyne*, Laing Art Gallery, Newcastle, until May 12

● *Talks: From Here, Recent Acquisitions by the Contemporary Art Society, City Library and Arts Centre, Reg Vardy Gallery and Museum and Art Gallery, Sunderland, until April 13*

● *New for the 90s*, Crafts Council exhibition, Shipley Art Gallery, Gateshead, until May 12



THEATRE

Adrian Lester, fresh from his Olivier triumph, leads Sondheim's *Company* into the West End



CHOICE 1

Pinchas Zukerman leads a 35th birthday party for the ECO

THE TIMES ARTS



CHOICE 2

Terence Rattigan's *The Winslow Boy* opens in Birmingham



CHOICE 3

Tim Luscombe's staging of *Charley's Aunt* comes to Watford

Fame beckons a Company man

THEATRE: The award-winning actor Adrian Lester reveals his ambitions to Matt Wolf

As its title suggests, Stephen Sondheim's *Company* is a company show. But even within the ensemble of the Donmar Warehouse production, Adrian Lester stands apart. For a start, he is the first black male, here in America, to star in a Sondheim musical. Far more significant than skin colour, however, is Lester's remarkable gift for anchoring a show usually of greater interest around the edges than at its core.

As Bobby, the 35-year-old Manhattan bachelor who yearns to enter the world of coupledom he sees all around him, Lester brings an off-camera guilelessness and charm to a part that can be a blank. Small wonder that his director, Sam Mendes, calls Lester's performance "sensational". It is not just the multi-racial casting that makes history; it is Lester's re-creation of a role that seemed cursed in both the show's 1970 debut and its Broadway revival last autumn.

Last month, Lester beat *Oliver's* Brian Conley to the Olivier Award for Best Musical Actor. The production was also honoured for Mendes's direction and for Sheila Gish's venomous turn as Joanne, the bruised lady who lurches. With the show reopening tomorrow at the Albery, Lester returns to the venue that brought him a previous Olivier nomination: as Rosalind in *Deceit*. Donnellan's all-male staging of *As You Like It*, another unexpected part for the willowy, Birmingham-born actor. Add to that the part of Anthony in the National's *Sweeney Todd* and it is clear that Lester has an impressively wide-ranging CV for a 27-year-old.

THE ups and downs of drugs are being hotly debated, with *Train-spotting* becoming a big-screen hit and enjoying a second West End run. Now there is also a fringe vision of *Morphine* playing just by King's Cross Station. This, however, hardly inspires euphoria. Adapted from Mikhail Bulgakov, *Morphine* is the tragic tale of a young Russian doctor who, heartbroken by his unfaithful amour, becomes fatally hooked on the pain-killing narcotic meant for his peasant patients.

Bulgakov, like Chekhov, trained in medicine. He draws a sharp, albeit sometimes comic, portrait of medical ineptitude and ignorance. Doctor



Adrian Lester: "I don't want to take a step backwards or tread water. Every part must give me something different"

In part he has benefited from the tendency of younger directors to see beyond race and gender when casting shows. But Lester's own determination to succeed is also a factor in his swift rise. He is reluctant to be a "professional black actor" moving only from one August Wilson play to another, preferring to be thought of as an actor who happens to be black — even if the black community voices the occasional objection.

"What's the matter? Aren't we good enough for you?" a black director once demanded of him. "That hurt," Lester says. "But you are only as flexible an actor as you make yourself. The actors I admire are the ones with a chameleon-like nature. That is the greatest thing you can have as an actor."

Lester was amazed when, last autumn, Mendes approached him to play Bobby, even though he had taken the supporting role of Paul in a student production of the same show while at Rada. "I looked about 15, like I'd barely gone into puberty," Lester says. A beard solved that problem, but vocal demands posed another. Both Broadway productions of *Company* featured leading men whose voices weren't up to a score that reaches its peak with *Being Alive*. Sondheim's celebrated eleventh-hour paeon to the possibility of commitment.

"I'm not that great a singer," Lester says. He is the antithesis of a seasoned West End belter such as Michael Ball, star of London's next Sondheim production, *Pastor*. In fact, Lester sang in a youth choir and then sang again until *Sweeney Todd*. But what he could offer instead was a Rada graduate's gift for interpretation. "I have to act the emotional narrative of the music as well as sing it, with the knowledge that every scene is helping Bobby to

same show while at Rada. "I looked about 15, like I'd barely gone into puberty," Lester says. A beard solved that problem, but vocal demands posed another. Both Broadway productions of *Company* featured leading men whose voices weren't up to a score that reaches its peak with *Being Alive*. Sondheim's celebrated eleventh-hour paeon to the possibility of commitment.

he says, is the conclusion to what Bobby has been thinking about the whole evening. "He keeps asking himself: 'What's missing?' *Being Alive* is where he finds out."

Preparing a show so focused on relationships split over into Lester's domestic life. The actor recalls conversations with his girlfriend of nine years, the actress Lolita Chakrabarti. "I'd come home and ask Lolita questions like: 'How do you know this is it; you say it's fine but how do you know?' She would look at me and think: 'It's that part, isn't it? It's the rehearsal.'"

Similarly, I remember being relieved when Rosalind was finished; that was like living with a girlfriend inside you." Not all of Lester's roles have been irrelevant of his skin-colour. In John Guare's Olivier Award-winning *Six Degrees of Separation*, he played a young black New Yorker who coos his way into the affections of a well-heeled white couple. In the recent

BBC TV drama, *The Affair*, he had a small role as a black American soldier stationed in provincial Britain during the Second World War.

Still, as he looks beyond *Company* to what he hopes will be a career in films and television, Lester acknowledges that the theatre is more liberal in its casting than the TV and film world. "They can be more narrow-minded. Which is why the more non-white actors are seen doing parts like Bobby, the better effect it will have."

Lester is adamant that he will seek work in America if he cannot find suitable challenges here. "They say that it takes ten years to make an actor, so I am putting the groundwork in," he says. "But I don't want to take a step backwards or tread water. Every part has to give me something different; otherwise, I'm not going to do it."

Company reopens tomorrow at the Albery Theatre, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (0171-369 1700)

Sadder sights outside

Morphine
Courtyard, NI

Polyakov, penning a case history of his own addiction, is informative about morphine's effects, from the first burst of mental energy to badly impaired consciousness. But from the word go, Victor Sobchak's staging is chronically lacklustre. Marc Bernheimer's Polyakov, inexplicably dressed in a double-breasted high-street suit and shiny moccasins, is lifeless before he has even clapped eyes on the opiate. The shoestring-budget set is shabby.

The venue is probably more thought-provoking than the play. This tiny cluster of old stables is a startling find in the midst of the sad grunge by King's Cross where, in the pouring rain by the door, two people were lying entwined on the pavement. The area obviously presents a strong challenge, perhaps making an art venture seem vain. As it stands, the Courtyard clearly has no money. The theatre, a long brick room painted black, is depressing. Yet if

someone with vision were to strip the paint and open the doors into the yard, this could become an exciting performance space.

Right now, this show is stupefyingly dull. Imagine spotting trains for an eternity, divide the thrill by a thousand, and you are still nowhere near it. Polyakov's bad trips are acutely unconvincing. He is tortured by mime-dancey sprites mercilessly prancing around in leotards and chiffon outfits. Back outside, those two people holding each other on the pavement, motionless, soaked hoods over their faces, said far more.

KATE BASSETT

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TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Matt Hargill

NASH ENSEMBLE: As part of the Ensemble's 20th-anniversary series, tonight's programme is a musical comedy of the 1920s. The story of a man who is taken to the vet and then returns home with a new owner. Cheltenham, Pudding House Lane, W1 (0171-369 1700) Tonight, 7pm, Wed-Sat, 8pm, Sun. 7.30pm.

ELSEWHERE: BIRMINGHAM: Opening night for The Winslow Boy. The story of a man who is taken to the vet and then returns home with a new owner. Cheltenham, Pudding House Lane, W1 (0171-369 1700) Tonight, 7pm, Wed-Sat, 8pm, Sun. 7.30pm.

CHITTY CHITTY BANG! The story of a man who is taken to the vet and then returns home with a new owner. Cheltenham, Pudding House Lane, W1 (0171-369 1700) Tonight, 7pm, Wed-Sat, 8pm, Sun. 7.30pm.

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KATE BASSETT

ENTERTAINMENTS

ART GALLERIES

NEW SCOTTISH PAINTINGS: 47 Great Russell Street WC1 (0171-434 6167) The Scottish Fine Art Society

OVERSEA & BALLET

COLISEUM: 0171 832 8800 ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET. Cheltenham, Pudding House Lane, W1 (0171-369 1700) Tonight, 7pm, Wed-Sat, 8pm, Sun. 7.30pm.

THEATRES

ADOLPH: "ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S MASTERPIECE" at St James's Theatre. Cheltenham, Pudding House Lane, W1 (0171-369 1700) Tonight, 7pm, Wed-Sat, 8pm, Sun. 7.30pm.

ALBANY

THE OLIVER & CRYSTAL CIRCUS: A new production of the musical. Cheltenham, Pudding House Lane, W1 (0171-369 1700) Tonight, 7pm, Wed-Sat, 8pm, Sun. 7.30pm.

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To

Confident Bruno sets aside talk of defeat

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT
IN LAS VEGAS

AFTER the failure of Frank Bruno to last more than five rounds against Mike Tyson here in 1989, no one would have imagined that the two would meet again yet here they are, preparing to meet in a contest in which Bruno defends his World Boxing Council heavyweight title.

The first bout with Tyson was Bruno's second attempt at a world title. The defeat was so crushing, like those he had suffered at the hands of James "Bonecrusher" Smith and Tim Witherspoon, the latter for the World Boxing Association title, that a second meeting with Tyson was unthinkable. Most experts believed Bruno had been lucky even to get a second world title bout. Not surprisingly, the Briton went into retirement.

Yet, after coming out of retirement three years later — and suffering a further defeat in six rounds against Lennox Lewis — Bruno will not just be meeting Tyson but defending a world title against the man who was once the undisputed champion. But can it be said with confidence that Bruno has no chance of beating Tyson? No. A good case can be made out for Bruno. Whether it will stand up on the night is another matter.

Much has changed in this gambling city since that bout with Tyson at the Hilton Hotel. The landscape has been transformed: galleons have appeared in mid-street, from which pirates battle it out with "His Majesty's Navy", a volcano has popped up at the Mirage. Dunes have been blown up, a fairy-tale castle, Excalibur, has materialised from nowhere and a great pyramid, Luxor, has been hauled into place. You can go from 4,000BC to modern times by monorail — from the time of the ancient god, Amen, to Mammon in minutes.

But nothing has changed quite so much as Bruno. The man who needed a hypnotist to brief him for his first encounter with Tyson now knows no fear. After training for several weeks with Nigel Benn, in Tenerife, he is bristling with confidence and believes he will knock out Tyson. "People think I am soft because I was in panto and they laughed at me, but I've come from a tough background. I'm ready to take on ten Tysons. I will wipe him out. I have the power. I'm mentally and physically ready for this fight," he said last December in Philadelphia, where he was publicising the bout. Nothing has changed.

Bruno's talk may or may not be bluster, but it is almost certain that Tyson has been forced into taking on Bruno earlier than planned. The Briton was supposed to be Tyson's fifth opponent. Instead, Tyson is having to face him after just four rounds of action from two bouts.

Don King, Tyson's promoter, did not want to risk a delay as Lennox Lewis might have been able to step in before Tyson. Also, as MGM, in its determination to secure Tyson's first six contests, had entered a deal involving an interest-free loan of \$15 million (about £10 million) to King, it was clearly anxious to see bouts of a high calibre to bring in returns. During the three-month period that included Tyson's return to the ring — against Peter McNeeley — their revenue actually fell.

The MGM hotel can hardly be blamed for looking for an opponent who will test Tyson and pull in a large crowd — 3,000 are expected from Britain alone. Bruno was seen as that man. The bookmakers here make Tyson favourite to win inside the distance. But even they are not certain that Tyson is the same man of the Eighties. Both McNeeley and Buster Mathis were able to back up Tyson. Bruno may even have a chance of finishing the job.

Dallaglio can meet challenge of leading England

David Hands finds a newcomer possessing the credentials to succeed Will Carling

The only aspect in which Will Carling faltered when he announced his impending resignation as captain of the England rugby union team was to coincide with the downfall of England's cricketers. Thus, the two team sports could be linked in one gloomy headline.

Carling's departure is no crisis for rugby, merely an acknowledgement of the passing of time. Nor is it a decision made for purely commercial reasons, though it could be perceived as such. Carling's advisers act in the belief that what is right for the sport will probably be right for their client and, in this instance, they are on the mark.

Eight seasons at the helm of a sport whose profile has grown as significantly as rugby's is enough for any man. Carling never had a youth in international rugby: within ten months of his first cap, he had made his first tour and been appointed captain. Who would deny him the possibility of a glorious autumn, untrammelled by the cares of captaincy?

The one aspect of Carling's international career that is unarguable is the manner in which he has sustained his playing form. You may suggest that he has never been the greatest reader of a game, yet it is virtually impossible to remember when he has not been worth his place in the team, never more so than this season when his personal life has been in such turmoil.

Dallaglio began this season with a reputation as a utility back-row forward, probably favouring the blind-side flank. He was uncapped, he had missed a World Cup place, despite touring South Africa with England in 1994, and when Jack Rowell, the England manager, spoke of reverting to an out-and-out open-side specialist, the names on his lips were those of Neil Back, Andy Robinson and Rory Jenkins. Dallaglio, the



Dallaglio has qualities England will be looking for after Carling steps down

centres in England's mid-season trial during 1995-96, but both withdrew from contention with injury. The same parallel might be drawn with Lawrence Dallaglio, one of the contenders to fill Carling's boots as captain next season.

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Wasp captain, did not become an original selection until the second game of the season, against Western Samoa, so he has been forced to learn the nuances of playing at No 7 while adjusting to the tempo and extraneous demands of international rugby. That the final-year student at Kingston University has coped speaks volumes for him.

Like Carling, then, he has come an original selection until the second game of the season, against Western Samoa, so he has been forced to learn the nuances of playing at No 7 while adjusting to the tempo and extraneous demands of international rugby. That the final-year student at Kingston University has coped speaks volumes for him.

live structure weigh heavily on their minds, never more than this week, with the meeting yesterday of the English first division clubs followed tomorrow by an Anglo-Welsh club gathering and, on Friday, by the European clubs' association meeting in Cardiff.

The absence of a summer tour is no bad thing and will allow leading players a decent rest while the team management makes up its collective mind on a recommendation for captain. First, the RFU must approve the management at its annual meeting in July; thereafter England's new captain can take up his duties for two, possibly three, pre-Christmas internationals followed by the 1997 Five Nations.

Villeneuve the understudy steals the show

FROM OLIVER HOLT IN MELBOURNE

EDDIE IRVINE'S Irish eyes were smiling, dancing, behind his round sunglasses. He sat in the bright light of the late afternoon outside the Ferrari garage, drinking in the fact that he had finished a fine third in his first race for the team and spared their blushes after his team-mate, Michael Schumacher, had been forced to retire with brake problems.

"That must make me the No 1, then," Irvine said, joking about the relationship with the German that has astounded everyone with its warmth and mutual respect. "Everything is reversed. I will be getting Michael's wages from now on. In fact, I'm going straight to the airport now to see if there are any private planes for sale."

Schumacher has already admitted that Irvine is the most talented team-mate he has had and Flavio Briatore, the Benetton managing director, may regret the terms of a bet he made with Eddie Jordan, the Jordan team owner. Every time Schumacher outqualifies Irvine this year, Jordan pays Briatore £5,000; every time Irvine outqualifies Schumacher, Briatore pays Jordan £20,000. Jordan is already £20,000 up.

Despite Irvine's outstanding start, though, another nominal No 2 driver stole the lion's share of the attention in the Australian Grand Prix here on Sunday. Damon Hill won the race but it was his team-mate, Jacques Villeneuve, whose performance started even the most seasoned observers.

Villeneuve, the reigning IndyCar champion, became only the fourth man in the history of the sport to qualify on pole position for his first race. He was only five laps away from becoming the first driver for 35 years to win on his Formula One debut when oil-pressure problems forced him to cede the lead to Hill.

His performance and the dominance of the Williams-Renault cars over the rest of

the field raised the prospect of the two team-mates finding themselves embroiled in a season-long battle for the championship and brought lavish praise from all corners for the young Canadian's debut. Football has had its share of "next George Best"s; now Formula One is touting its next Ayrton Senna.

Small, with prematurely thinning hair, Villeneuve is a devotee of the grunge look: casual, scruffy. But there is something about him, an aura, that tells you he is bound for greatness.

"He has got something special that makes him stand out from most other drivers," Hill said. "Whatever it is, it means he is going to make his mark on Formula



Irvine talented

One. I am really quite pleased to have him in the team. It is a good motivation for me. But I showed I was capable of matching him. It is not as if he was outpacing me. Sometimes, in the past, I have kicked myself because, last year in particular, I tried to screw too much out of myself. When I am relaxed and just let it flow, I have a great time in the car. It is just experience."

Patrick Head, the Williams technical director, was unstinting in his praise for Villeneuve. "I am mighty impressed," Head said. "He is obviously very talented. It is great to see how much he loves his racing. It is not stressful for him. He is a natural."

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SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

There is a new international competition on the calendar, the Politiken World Pairs. The inaugural event was held in November in Copenhagen. West made an elementary mistake on this hand, from the match between four Danish players:

Dealer East	East-West game	IMP's
♠ 10 9 8 4 ♥ 7 6 5 ♦ 10 9 8 7 ♣ A Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	♠ 10 9 8 4 ♥ 7 6 5 ♦ 10 9 8 7 ♣ A Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	+6753 +747 +864 +AJ98

W	N	E	S
3C	5H	1C Double	4H All Pass

Contract: Five Hearts Doubled, by South Lead: two of spades

North-South had the better of the auction when they managed to buy the contract in Five Hearts. At other tables East-West bid a slam in clubs or diamonds, and made it by taking the right guess in clubs. It looks reasonable for East to double Five Hearts — after all, his hand is defensively oriented. But if he had passed, West would surely have competed further: the correct bid on his hand would be SNT, the

"Unusual No-Trump". That expresses willingness to play in another suit — here clearly diamonds, as he has bypassed Five Spades. The lead was an obvious singleton, and declarer won in dummy to play a heart. East went in with the ace, and intelligently continued with the king of diamonds. West played low and East then tried to give him a spade ruff with his trump void. So declarer made his contract.

What went wrong? You might say that East should assume South has seven hearts, but that isn't cast-iron. If South were 3-6-4-0, giving West a spade ruff would be the only winning defence. But West should have been aware of this. As he couldn't ruff a spade he should have overtaken in the diamond and played clubs himself. That way the accident would have been avoided.

For details of *The Times* Midland Private Banking National Bridge challenge, contact the event organisers on 0181-942 9506 or write to: Britannia Building, Beverley Way, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 4PH or fax to: 0181-942 9569

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ANGICO

- a. A plaster cherub
- b. Gum
- c. A tumour

DIABOLO

- a. Curried ravioli
- b. The Mexican lasso
- c. Game with a top

FLANCH

- a. To slope
- b. A surgeon's knife
- c. To blench

BEEKITE

- a. The bee-eating buzzard
- b. The first Britons
- c. A shell fossil

Answers on page 46

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

New generation

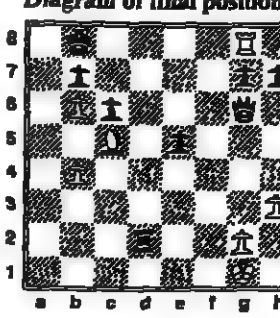
In 1935 Alexander Alekhine lost his title to the Dutchman Dr Max Euwe, nine years later, Alekhine regained the world championship and retained it until his death in Portugal in 1946.

From 1935 onwards Alekhine crossed swords frequently with the younger generation which included Paul Keres, Samuel Reshevsky, Mikhail Botvinnik, Salo Flohr and Reuben Fine. Generally, Alekhine gave as good as he got against the coming men, and on occasion, he was still able to despatch his younger rivals with the fiery brilliance which had characterised his best games in the past. Today's game was a superb example of Alekhine's forte for combination and the attack. In a seemingly tense and balanced situation Alekhine unleashes a furious sacrificial onslaught which forces an unexpected checkmate.

White: Alexander Alekhine
Black: Samuel Reshevsky
Kemer 1937

Alekhine's Defence	
1 e4	Nf6
2 e5	Nd5
3 Nf3	d6
4 d4	Bg4
5 c4	Nb6
6 Be2	Qd5
7 Nbd2	Bxd2
8 Qxd2	Qxd4
9 0-0	Nd7
10 Nc7	Nd7
11 Nc3	c5
12 Bc3	Qe5
13 Rxd1	ex5
14 Qf3	0-0-0
15 Bxd7	Qd5
16 Bg4	Qd5

Diagram of final position



Grand Prix

Early leaders in the National Grand Prix, which recognises outstanding achievement in UK tournaments, are as follows: 1. B Lalic 85.6pts; 2. K Arkel 85.9; 3. S Conquest 75.4; M Heblen 70.5; S Lalic 60.9; 6. J Howell 49.5.

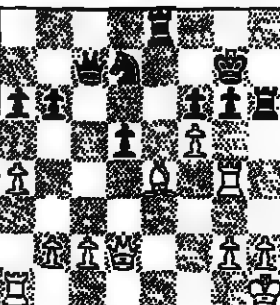
It is interesting to observe that the husband and wife team of Bogdan and Susan Lalic are holding down two of the top five places, a most unusual occurrence.

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Schwicker - Bourde, France 1981. It looks as if White might be in trouble, as Black has two threats... Qd2 mate and... dxe4. However, White's following sequence swifly decides matters in his favour. What did he play?



Solution on page 46

Highbury supporters face another season of discontent

Wright adds to Arsenal worries

By Russell Kempson and Peter Ball

ARSENAL supporters were yesterday digesting the implications of Ian Wright's transfer request. Just when they thought it was safe to look forward to an end-of-season push for a Uefa Cup qualification, just when they thought the dust from the Paul Merson and George Graham affairs had finally settled, it was crisis time again at Highbury.

Wright, 32, cited general dissatisfaction as the reason behind his sudden move, despite scoring 19 goals this season and his appointment as captain in place of the injured Tony Adams. "I'm not happy any more," he said. "Certain things have hurt me and there have been times when I have been criticised harshly and unfairly."

Southampton United, the struggling Endsleigh Insurance League third division club, yesterday parted company with Dave Moore, their manager since June 1994. Mick Buxton, who was manager at Glanford Park from 1987 until 1991, has been placed in charge until the end of the season. The position will then be advertised.

Bruce Rioch, the Arsenal manager, tried to persuade Wright to withdraw his request. "I tried to talk him out of it but he said he wanted to hand it in," Rioch said. "I will recommend to the board that, for the time being, they turn it down."

For the long-suffering Arsenal supporters, it is a recurring bad dream. Mick Coppock, editor of *Gunflash*, the official Arsenal supporters' club magazine, said: "I never thought I'd see the day that a player of Ian's calibre would demand a transfer from this club. If a player of his stature wants to go, there has to be something seriously wrong summing behind the scenes."

"We're all pretty devastated by this and you also get the feeling there is more to come. We thought we'd finished with this sort of business and you begin to wonder when it's all going to end. I get the impression that either Wright or Rioch, or maybe both, won't be with us next season."

Alan Smith, the former Arsenal forward, was equally bemused. "It seems to be a clash between Ian and Bruce, the type of thing that can happen when a club is going through a transitional period," he said. "Every new manager wants to do things his way and it's up to the fans to try to be patient."

Wright, who signed a four-year contract last year, is a volatile character, prone to swift changes of mood, and only last week spoke of his pride at being offered the captaincy. "It's a great honour," he said. "I took on the role in as serious a way as I could so that people will realise the boss [Rioch] made a good decision."

Rioch is not on the best of terms with David Dein, the Arsenal vice-chairman, either. Rioch, who arrived at Highbury in June but has yet to sign his contract, feels Dein has become too involved in the quest for new players and is undermining his authority.

Though age is not on his side, Wright's goalscoring record — 141 in 209 matches for Arsenal — is likely to attract much interest, for a fee of around £2 million. Chelsea, who play Manchester City at Stamford Bridge tonight, had a tentative inquiry rebuffed two weeks ago but will be encouraged by the latest developments.

Manchester City's visit to London tonight marks the start of an important week for the Maine Road club, with a home match against their fellow FA Carling Premiership strugglers, Southampton, on Saturday. It has led to Alan Ball, the City manager, issuing a clarion call to arms to his team for the first time since, in his own words, he "got out the

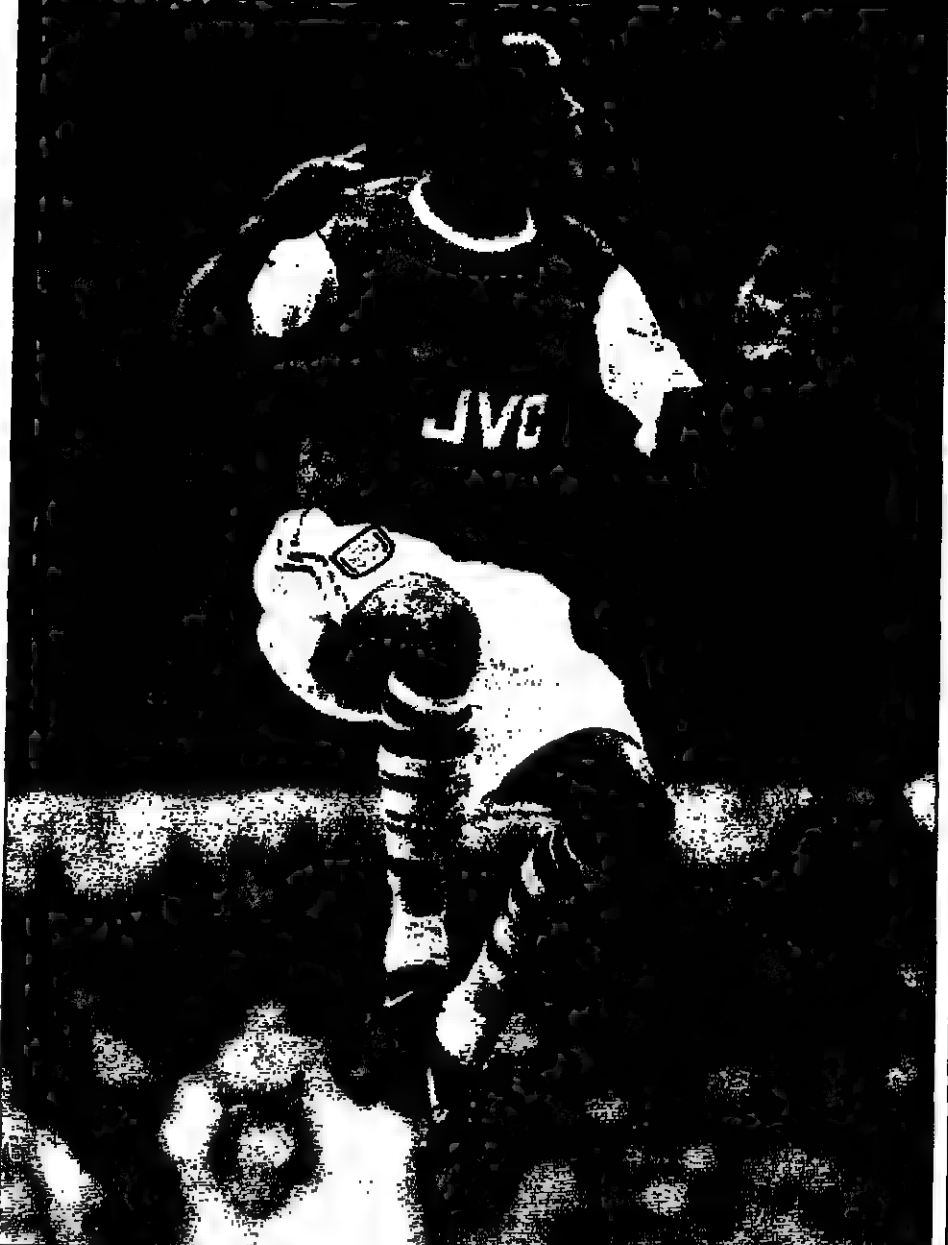
big stick" in the autumn. "This wasn't the big stick as such," Ball said. "The training was great again this morning, but they've got to take that out into a match situation and win games."

"So it's the most forceful I've been with them for quite a while, just to get my point over

of the importance of this particular time of the season, and what is expected of professionals."

City will almost certainly be without Niall Quinn, their centre forward, tonight. Curle and Brown are also missing.

Gillingham and Fulham have escaped with a warning from the Football Association after their fractious Endsleigh Insurance League third division match on November 25. The game at Priestfield left one player with a broken leg, ten men booked and two sent off — one by mistake.



Wright has scored 141 goals in 209 matches for Arsenal but now he wants a transfer

New rules on lottery funding to provide sports boost

By John Goodbody

ABOUT £35 million from the proceeds of the National Lottery will be used as revenue funding of sport over the next year, the Government will announce next month.

The money will include between £5 million and £10 million to help support elite competitors, particularly in the Olympic events, as well as providing money for coaching, maintenance of existing facilities, and the staging of international championships in Britain. At the moment, the Lottery Sports Fund finances only capital projects.

The fund, which is chaired by Trevor Brooking, handed out £180 million to aid 1,027 projects in its first year. Under the new rules, it will be allowed to provide money for staff at sports centres and playing fields, as well as preparation of athletes from grass-roots to elite levels.

From April, the Sports Council, which acts with overall control, will also allow up to 90 per cent funding for capital projects in deprived rural areas, compared with the usual 65 per cent. This mirrors the policy for inner-city areas. Nearly 20 per cent of England is designated by the Rural Development Commission as an area of deprivation.

David Carpenter, the fund's external affairs manager, said: "Deprived rural areas will still have to meet the usual criteria, such as catering for young people."

The Sports Council yesterday announced its £1,000th lottery grant. The sum of £40,723 was allocated to Tavistock Rugby Club to help to build new changing-rooms, so allowing men and women to play the sport at the same time. Claire Ellis, 11, said: "At the moment, we change in the toilets and then go home to have a shower."

Best of British bar Jansher's path

JANSHER KHAN will almost certainly have to beat the best players Britain has to offer if he is to make a fourth successful defence of his British Open squash championship in Cardiff in April. Presuming he first beats Derek Ryan, the Irish No 1, and then Zarak Jahan, his Pakistani compatriot, Jansher is likely to meet Del Harris, the fifth-seeded English No 1, in the quarter-finals. Either Peter Nicol, of Scotland, or Chris Walker, of England, is likely to await the winner in the last four. Harris pressed Jansher uncomfortably close in the World Open final in November and Nicol is the last man to have defeated the Pakistani in tournament play.

TOP SEEDS: Marc 1, Khan (Pakistan); 2, R Fyles (Aust); 3, B Martin (Aust); 4, P Nicol (Scot); 5, D Harris (Eng); 6, C Walker (Eng); 7, A Hing (Aus); 8, M Chalmers (Eng); 9, J Jansher (Pak); 10, S Fothergill (Aus); 11, S Living (Aus); 12, C Casanovi (Eng); 13, C Owens (Aus); 14, S Horne (Eng); 15, S Score (Eng); 16, F Gosses (Eng).

Super League setback

RUGBY LEAGUE: An Australian court yesterday dealt a blow to plans for a rebel Super League backed by News Limited, the Australian arm of The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*. Justice James Burchett ordered Super League to tell its contracted players to return to their Australian Rugby League (ARL) clubs and banned it from paying them if they failed to do so. The judge backed the ARL's claim to be the sole controlling body of the game in Australia and banned Super League, or any alternative run by Britain's Rugby Football League, until the end of 1999.

England get prize draw

BADMINTON: The England women, who unexpectedly qualified for the world team finals from the Uber Cup in Prague last month, have been given the best possible group draw for the tournament in Hong Kong in May. They have avoided the holders, Indonesia, and China, the favourites, and will play Denmark, Hong Kong and South Korea. The England men have a tougher draw which includes Indonesia, the holders, and one of the favourites, China.

Faldo heads for Europe

GOLF: Nick Faldo will make his first appearance in Europe this season when he contests the Benson and Hedges International Open at The Oxfordshire in May. Faldo, now based with the US PGA Tour, played only three tournaments in Europe last year, but he has committed himself to both the Benson and Hedges event — in which he has been a runner-up on three occasions — and the Volvo PGA Championship at Wentworth the next week.

Henman on the rise

TENNIS: Tim Henman, from Oxford, has risen 15 places to No 64 in the latest world rankings after reaching the semi-finals of the Rotterdam indoor tournament last week. He consolidated his position in the first round of the ATP tournament in Copenhagen yesterday, beating Henrik Holm, of Sweden, 4-6, 7-5, 7-6. Henman closed the gap on the Canadian-born Greg Rusedski, now representing Britain, who dropped two places to No 44.

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Irish contender can dethrone Alderbrook in Champion Hurdle

Hotel Minella offers attractive terms

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

AIDAN O'BRIEN, the young training genius from across the Irish Sea, can achieve a career landmark today by landing his first Cheltenham Festival success with Hotel Minella in the Smurfit Champion Hurdle.

In the three years he has held a trainer's licence, the quietly spoken 26-year-old has proved himself to be a record-breaking phenomenon with around 500 winners on the Flat and over the jumps. However, his unrelenting progress has been confined to the domestic Irish scene.

At the start of this season, with Cheltenham in mind, O'Brien deliberately adopted different tactics. Horses with Festival potential did not run repeatedly at home; instead their season was geared towards the finest three days of jump racing, which get underway at Prestbury Park this afternoon.

Hotel Minella, a late-maturing son of Strong Gale whose full-time hurdling career did not begin until last season, proved to be the best novice on view with the exception of Alderbrook. The winner of four races, including the Irish Champion Novices' Hurdle at Punchestown, on ground ranging from good to soft, he left the strong impression there was even better to come this season.

On his first outing this term, at Leopardstown in early December, the nine-year-old was not given a hard time by Charlie Swan when lack of

fitness began to tell. In the Irish Champion Hurdle seven weeks later, Hotel Minella travelled like the winner for much of the race. He made eye-catching progress to displace the lead at the last flight, only to be outbatted in desperate ground by the mud-loving Collier Bay, with Danoli half a length away in third.

The outcome confirmed what O'Brien and Swan had long known. Hotel Minella does little once in front and prefers better ground. More unkindly, his detractors hinted he lacked courage for a

fight. Reported by his trainer to have improved "an awful lot" since that outing, Hotel Minella should have the race run to suit today.

With the front-running Mysliv sure to set a decent pace in a race that is invariably truly run, Hotel Minella has a high cruising speed which is invaluable in championship races.

All being well, he will still be travelling sweetly when many of his rivals are struggling to go the pace. The trick will be for Swan to delay his challenge to the last possible moment, no easy task up the

Cheltenham hill, but few jockeys are better equipped to carry out the task to perfection.

Twelve months ago, Alderbrook recorded the best performance by a Champion Hurdle winner for several years. A reproduction of that form would probably see him triumph again. However, the seven-year-old has had just one race since undergoing surgery and while he won impressively enough at Kempton 17 days ago, the form amounts to little.

More worryingly, Kim Bailey's string has not been firing on all cylinders this season and, at around even money, Alderbrook looks worth opposing.

Danoli, whose racing career looked over after fracturing a leg at Aintree last April, is a big danger and any rain would increase his chances. Tom Foley's star has had an ideal preparation, unlike last year, and could well complete an Irish one.

It was an extremely difficult choice for Jamie Osborne to decide to ride Mysliv in preference to Collier Bay. Mysliv is a model of consistency, who deserves to make the frame, but her overall form does not look good enough for her to win.

However, if the forecast rain arrives in sufficient quantity and time to make the ground genuinely soft, the Jim Old-trained Collier Bay would come into the reckoning.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: KIMANICKY (2.15 Cheltenham)

Next best: Unguided Missile (4.05 Cheltenham)



Hotel Minella is fancied to triumph for the Irish in the Champion Hurdle today

BIG RACE LINE-UP

3.30 SMURFIT CHAMPION HURDLE CHALLENGE TROPHY

Grade 1, £127,966; 2m 110yd (16 runners)	
101-111 ALDERBROOK 17 (6.5) (P) & Bailey 7-12-0	R Danoli 60
102-112 HOTEL MINELLA 17 (6.5) (P) & Bailey 7-12-0	R Danoli 60
103-113 COLIER BAY 17 (6.5) (P) & Bailey 7-12-0	R Danoli 60
104-114 UNGUIDED MISSILE 17 (6.5) (P) & Bailey 7-12-0	R Danoli 60
105-115 DANOLI 17 (6.5) (P) & Bailey 7-12-0	R Danoli 60
106-116 STAMPAH 17 (6.5) (P) & Bailey 7-12-0	R Danoli 60
107-117 KISSA 17 (6.5) (P) & Bailey 7-12-0	R Danoli 60
108-118 STAMPAH 17 (6.5) (P) & Bailey 7-12-0	R Danoli 60
109-119 STAMPAH 17 (6.5) (P) & Bailey 7-12-0	R Danoli 60
110-120 STAMPAH 17 (6.5) (P) & Bailey 7-12-0	R Danoli 60
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'The truth, or something wobbly, is out there

Nothing quite marks the passing of time for us as much as working out just how long ago it was that you announced you wanted to be an astronaut for the last time. That, of course, was long before Heien Sharmar floated along and made the whole thing easy. Girls in space? Yuk. Nobody was playing kase-chase in my command aisle.

Anyway, as far as this particular member of the Apollo generation is concerned it was a very, very long time ago. The white giant of an ambition that once burnt so brightly went through the red dwarf stage years ago. Now it is little more than a pulsar, the collapsed burnt-out wreck of a star, condemned to spend the rest of eternity spinning like a billy-o and emitting meaningless radio waves. I know this because last night I watched *Horizon: The Planet Hunters* (BBC2).

Danielle Peck's film told the story of the hunt for planets far beyond the icy orbit of Pluto. We were heading into serious outer space, where distances are measured in light years and planet-hunting becomes about as easy as spotting a firefly perched on a floodlight. That was an astronomer's metaphor, not mine.

The problem with planet-hunting, it was explained, is simple — they are too small and too far away. We cannot see them. But we might, just might, be able to see the gravitational impact they have on their celestial surroundings. The hunt for wobbly stars had begun.

Professor Andrew Lyne, the pulsar king of Manchester, thought he had found one, but this turned out to be the big mistake that no science documentary is now without. Having published the first ever proof of a planet circling another star, Lyne belatedly realised that it was not the star

that was wobbling, but Earth. Very nobly he owned up to the mistake in front of an audience of 500 of his most important peers at a convention. His reward for honesty was a standing ovation, proof that while we may be alone in the cosmos, we British are not alone in our love for the gallant loser.

Peck's informative film, however, did have one flaw: an over-reliance on Geoff Marcy, a Californian astronomer with such an irritating style that he ought to be fired into geo-stationary orbit immediately. Somewhere over Switzerland would be appropriate.

Because what really gets this aggressively competitive man is that he was not first to find "proof" of a planet outside our solar system. Two Swiss astronomers beat him to it, apparently discovering something large and unlikely

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

positively hurtling around Si Pegasus — Si Peg to its friends.

Marcy's first reaction? "Oh, no, another planet I've got to debunk." And his second, once he couldn't? That something so large, and hot and inhospitable, didn't really count. "Yeah, it will go down as the first planet, but it didn't quite hit home to me." Spurred by pique, Marcy promptly went out and found two planets of his very own,

which had been lurking unnoticed on the hard disk of his computer. One, he confidently predicted, would have liquid water on it. Life, at least as Geoff knew it, was but a short step away.

Life, at least as Florrie Hutchinson knew it, came to an end at the start of the final episode of *Our Friends in the North* (BBC2), which finished in far canter fettle than it began all those weeks ago. Against all my expectations, there was even the semblance of a happy ending with Nicky by now, grey and unfit, and Mary, glowing, testifying to hormone replacement therapy, just about getting back together in time for the final credits. Puffing and blowing, Nicky finally seized the day — just as his mother had told him to in her final letter.

The influence of parents on their children was one of the big themes of Peter Flannery's epic tale. The sense of failure that Felix passed

on to Nicky, the misery and betrayal inherited by Anthony from his mother, Mary, and — for those who had really been following the plot closely — the seed of self-destruction planted by Felix's former tormentor, Christopher Collins, in his tearaway son, Sean.

In this final episode, not everything was convincing (where did George learn to play the piano?), but there were two lovely moments — three if you bought the contrived but still poignant scene that finally brought our four friends together in one room. The first was the emotional reunion between Nicky and George, our tragic, drink-filled Everyman. Daniel Craig was magnificent as the latter, a man barely clinging on to hope.

The second came at Florrie's funeral when, with Nicky (Christopher Eccleston) sobbing loudly and alone in the front pew, the

priest invited the congregation to call to mind their sins. After nine sin-packed episodes, they took some counting. In the *Radio Times*, Eccleston says he prefers the audience to dislike the characters he plays. Well, but for those two minutes in church he succeeded which, out of some 700 minutes of brave, ambitious and memorable television, isn't bad, is it?

Finally, an old problem came back to haunt Kavanagh (ITV): not enough story. The episode itself was as beautifully acted as ever, but Russell Lewis's script was definitely a subplot or two short of 90 minutes. It was also a tad predictable. A handsome young Royal Navy officer and a rating court-martialled together. Must be "the usual thing" as they say in boarding school circles. And, some 60 minutes or so later, the usual thing is what it turned out to be, rather more of it than we had imagined, but still the usual thing.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (23522)
6.30am Breakfast News (Ceefax) (41183)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Ceefax) (8035367)

9.30am Can't Cook, Won't Cook (a) (2481763)
9.45 Nicky (a) (8255218)
1.00 Good Morning with Anne and Nick (a) (44047)

12.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (2312183) 12.30pm Turnabout (a) (5735725) 12.30pm Going for a Song (a) (59251)

1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (44270) 1.30pm Regional News and weather (1446765)

1.45 Neighbours (Ceefax) (a) (9495654)
2.00 Peppermint (a) (8541589)
2.40 Rich Man, Poor Man, With Peter Strauss and Nick Nolte (1355218)

3.00 Arts in Your Hands (a) (822183) 3.30 ChuckleVision (a) (8242947) 4.10 Willy Weather (a) (449255) 4.35 Turn of the Mind (Ceefax) (a) (2028812)

5.00 Newsround (Ceefax) (3877184)
5.10 Orange Hill (Ceefax) (1478712)
5.30 Neighbours. Karl is made to eat his words (a) (344368)

6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) (a) (47)
6.30 Regional News magazine (299)
7.00 Holiday. Jill Dando explores the Scottish Highlands on a steam train; Kirsty Young holidays in the South of France; Paul Gogarty takes a trip from Nashville to Memphis; Senko, Guha, travels to Tuscany. (Ceefax) (a) (8589)

7.30 EastEnders. (Ceefax) (a) (183)
8.00 Great Ormond Street. Real-life cases from the children's hospital in London. (Ceefax) (a) (2308)

8.30 The Brittas Empire. Body Language. Colin suspects that aliens are about to take over the centre. (Ceefax) (a) (4744)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (5454)
9.30 **NEW** They Think It's All Over. The comedian Nick Hancock compares a game of wit and sporting knowledge with team captains David Gower and Gary Lineker. (Ceefax) (a) (79015) 9.50pm WALL-TO-WALL: A Week Out (79015) 10.00 They Think It's All Over (39909) 10.30 Rough Justice (199183) 11.10 Film: Saturn 3 (398560) 12.30am Film: Hero at Large (87139) 2.10 News headlines and weather (833503)

10.00 **NEW** Rough Justice: The Usual Suspect. (Ceefax) (a) (419299)

10.45 FILM: Saturn 3 (1980) with Farah Fawcett and Kirk Douglas. Futuristic adventure in which two space-station dwellers are marooned by a mad scientist and his say-mad robot, Hector. Directed by Stanley Donen (Ceefax) (2734102)

12.05am FILM: Hero at Large (1980) with John Ritter and Anne Archer. An out-of-control actor who pays the bills by making public appearances as a comic-book hero, Captain America, falls a hold-up at a corner store while dressed as the hero. Directed by Martin Davidson (794329) 1.40am Weather (811469)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes. The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes. You can use them to programme your video recorder to record a programme. For more details see VideoPlus+ on page 123 of the TV Times. For more details see VideoPlus+ on page 123 of the TV Times. For more details see VideoPlus+ on page 123 of the TV Times.

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BBC2

6.00am Open University: Plants (9883744)
6.30 The Emergence of Greek Mathematics (9872251) 6.50 Geology (987909)

7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (1989296)
7.30 Stingray (a) (Ceefax) (62576) 8.00 Blue Peter (Ceefax) (a) (565744) 8.25 Oakie Doke (a) (6136744)

8.40 The Record. Yesterday in Parliament (a) (8213015)
9.05 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes, including, for children, 10.00-10.25 Playdays (a) (4713831)

2.00 Oakie Doke. Animation (a) (2019580)
2.10 The Ant and the Aardvark (a) (430763)
3.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (1792229)

3.05 Westminster with Nick Ross (Ceefax) (a) (8978164) 3.55 News (Ceefax) (286454)
4.00 Today's the Day. Quiz (a) (812)

4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (a) (116)
5.00 Esther. (a) (4387) 5.30 The Village (794837)

5.58 Global Warning. The second of a 20-part series about the environment and the natural world. (a) (731164)

6.00 Fresh Prince of Bel Air. There's the rub. Concluding a two-part story. (Ceefax) (a) (286857)

6.28 Heartbreak High. Australian high school drama series. (Ceefax) (a) (814366)

7.10 The Ren and Stimpy Show. A cartoon double-bill. (Ceefax) (a) (698893)

7.30 From the Edge. Gary O'Donoghue talks about the new Disability Discrimination Act to Alfie Burt, Minister for the Disabled. (Ceefax) (a) (725)

8.00 Public Eye: Just Treatment. A look at the testing effects a miscarriage of justice can have. (Ceefax) (a) (3251)

8.30 Food and Drink. Jill Goodwin and Oz Clarke sample new white wines from Eastern Europe and Michael Barry cooks a hearty toad-in-the-hole. (Ceefax) (a) (2388)

9.00 Murder One: Chapter Two. Daniel Benzali stars as a celebrity defence lawyer in Steven Bochco's legal drama series. (Ceefax) (a) (838589)

9.30 **NEW** They Think It's All Over. The comedian Nick Hancock compares a game of wit and sporting knowledge with team captains David Gower and Gary Lineker. (Ceefax) (a) (79015) 9.50pm WALL-TO-WALL: A Week Out (79015) 10.00 They Think It's All Over (39909) 10.30 Rough Justice (199183) 11.10 Film: Saturn 3 (398560) 12.30am Film: Hero at Large (87139) 2.10 News headlines and weather (833503)

10.00 **NEW** Rough Justice: The Usual Suspect. (Ceefax) (a) (419299)

10.45 FILM: Saturn 3 (1980) with Farah Fawcett and Kirk Douglas. Futuristic adventure in which two space-station dwellers are marooned by a mad scientist and his say-mad robot, Hector. Directed by Stanley Donen (Ceefax) (2734102)

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CHOICE

Without Walls: Elgar's Tenth Muse Channel 4, 9.00pm

In the standard biography of Elgar by Michael Kennedy the elderly composer's infatuation for a young Hungarian violinist, Jelly d'Aranyi, rates no more than a paragraph. For Nigel Gearing, author of this dramatisation, it was a key episode in Elgar's career, a compensation for the early death of his wife and a spur to renewed creativity after inspiration seemed to have dried up. It is doing so that you are

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Waugh takes giant leap for Australia

Sudan

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Kay Redfield Jamison battled for more than a decade to accept lithium as an everyday part of her life

A search for peace from an unquiet mind

In a disturbing new book about manic depression, Professor Kay Redfield Jamison describes her professional and personal experiences. Giles Whittell reports from Los Angeles

Halfway through Kay Redfield Jamison's unique book on manic depression she describes an extraordinary scene.

On a visit to England to stay with her lover — a "tall, handsome" British army psychiatrist — she visits Canterbury Cathedral. She kneels to contemplate the place of Becket's murder, and to pray, and in the process remembers she has not taken her pills. In panic she reaches for the bottle from her handbag and spills its contents over the dirty cathedral floor.

"It was a moment of embarrassment, but of reckoning as well," she writes. "It meant I would have to ask David to write a prescription for me." It meant, in short, that she would have to reveal to him that she was not only a world expert on manic depression, but a sufferer from it as well.

"David" is wonderfully understanding: he provides unconditional support as well as a prescription. This sort of love and its role in helping manic depressives to cope with their lifelong and life-threatening illness is a major theme of Jamison's new book, *An Unquiet Mind*, which is shortly to be published in Britain.

But the book is hardly a love story. It is, chiefly, a harrowing insight, through the eyes of a patient going public for the first time, into the unimaginably traumatic highs and lows of manic depression. It reveals first-hand the debilitating side-effects of lithium, the only known drug that reliably controls those fluctuations, and it tells from equally personal experience of the lethal dangers of not taking it.

An Unquiet Mind is, not least, the story of a determined and fiercely talented woman reaching the top of a male-dominated profession against extraordinary odds. These odds never appeared in starker relief than at the start of her career. After struggling at high school and university in California with violent mood swings that she later learnt were early symptoms of manic depression, Jamison triumphed at the first and stiffest test posed by American academia: she passed a gruelling three-hour oral exam on her PhD thesis on heroin addiction, and won an associate professorship in psychiatry at the University of California, Los Angeles.

"I had a glorious summer," she writes, "and within three months of becoming a professor I was ravingly psychotic." She already knew, and secretly enjoyed, the mind-expanding trips and inexhaustible energies of mild mania. Wistfully, she recalls going for nights on end with no need of sleep but a voracious appetite for books, sex, talk and general revelry. She describes in language similar to that of LSD enthusiasts an exquisite hypersensitivity to music and visual imagery during those early upswings: "I found myself in

ing, some sympathetic — with in the university establishment by dressing provocatively and schmoozing frantically at the chancellor's summer garden party. It was a performance that at least one colleague recognised as out of character, and probably manic.

Scared and humiliated, she signed on with a psychiatrist and started taking lithium. It dulled her senses, shortened her concentration span, made reading a struggle and threw off her co-ordination in everything from playing squash to raising a cup of coffee to her lips. The drug also deprived her of the intoxicating highs of her youth, but at least it softened the lows as well.

Much of *An Unquiet Mind* is devoted to Jamison's battle over more than a decade to accept lithium as an everyday part of her life. It is a battle many lose, in one grim episode one of her own patients summons her with

primal screams to the UCLA Medical Centre's emergency room, where she finds him strapped to a trolley, writhing in the trough of a psychotic depression, having refused to take his lithium, watched by three policemen with hands on their guns.

The patient survived that episode but continued to refuse his lithium and eventually killed himself.

It took a brush with death to force Jamison to accept the drug. After a "black, suicidal depression" that lasted a year and a half she resolved to end her life — ironically, with a lithium overdose. Taken to hospital before it had time to work, she was nursed from a coma back to fragile health by doctor friends who monitored her lithium levels every day.

Her achievements since have been nothing short of miraculous. She co-founded UCLA's

first outpatient clinic for sufferers of severe mood swings, wrote prolifically, won secure employment at the university and organised a series of concerts in aid of research into manic depression, with top orchestras playing music by such manic geniuses as Schumann and Berlioz.

In 1986 she moved to Washington to become Professor of Psychiatry at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

Passionate, beautiful and workaholic, her idea of relaxation was to take a year's sabbatical in England. There she fell in love with Oxford as a senior research fellow at Merton College, and with another tall and elegant Englishman (David having tragically died in Hong Kong of a heart attack).

She recounts her love affairs so unselfishly that they would not be out of place in a Mills and Boon novel. Embracing this new man outside a news house she was renting in South Kensington, for example, she "felt and smelt the rain against his coat, felt his arms around me, and remembered, with relief, how extraordinary scents and rain and love and life can be".

Kay Redfield Jamison has written elsewhere on links between manic depression and creative genius. In *Touched With Fire* (1993) she lists as sufferers Van Gogh, Byron, Virginia Woolf, Rupert Brooke, Graham Greene and F. Scott Fitzgerald, among many others. Critics accused her of glamorising the disease. This time she has concentrated on its afflictions, pointing out that tens of thousands die of it each year in America alone (including a distressing number of young and talented doctors), and fearlessly laying bare her own inner demons.

Still, she can't resist a plug for the illness that has both defined her life and been the object of her most important work. With it, she claims, she has "felt more things, more deeply, had more experiences, more intensely, loved more, and been more loved" than she would have done without it. Given the choice, she asks herself, would she be manic depressive? With the right dose of lithium, she answers, yes.

● *An Unquiet Mind* is published by Picador next month (£15.99)

'Within three months of becoming a professor I was psychotic'

How bark extracts can treat cancer

Trees of life

THE origins of the proverb that those who plant trees love others beside themselves is lost in antiquity but its truth is being borne out by the use of trees in modern medicine.

In the past, drugs ranging from quinine and salicylates (aspirin-type drugs) to camphor have had their place in the pharmacopoeia but now extracts of trees and plants are increasingly being used in oncology, the treatment of cancers.

The people who planted the Pacific yew had no idea that an extract of its bark, marketed as Taxol, would be useful in the treatment of cancer of the breast and malignant moles, any more than the men who tended the churchyards of Britain knew that one day the leaves of the European yew would yield another anticancer drug, Taxotere.

Country people over much of Asia, and the Chinese in particular, have from time immemorial planted a tree — Xi-Shu (known in botanical circles as *Camptotheca acuminata*) — both for the beauty of its white flowers in August and for its firewood. It is a rapidly growing tree which can reach a height of 100ft and a diameter of 3ft in 20 years. Scientists have now discovered that an alkaloid derived from the wood of *Camptotheca* is useful in the treatment of cancer of the colon and rectum. Two pharmaceutical firms are using the tree to produce the drugs Irinotecan and Topotecan. They are still undergoing trials, but early research suggests that they will benefit between 15 and 30 per cent of

patients with cancer of the colon once the standard first-line chemotherapy — at the moment 5-fluorouracil (5-FU) — has failed. Other trials are assessing the drugs as first-line treatment in their own right.

There are 28,000 new cases of cancer of the colon and rectum each year, of whom about a third live for more than five years after treatment and can be considered cured. Treatment of those who have advanced disease when first diagnosed, or who later develop secondary spread, is changing, and British doctors are accepting the American view that palliative treatment is worthwhile. Recent statistics suggest that it can double the survival time from the diagnosis of an advanced case and can also improve the quality of life of the patient.

Whereas Irinotecan and Topotecan have not yet completed their clinical trials, the pharmaceutical company Zeneca, formerly ICI, has recently marketed the first new drug for the treatment of advanced cases of colon cancer for 35 years, during which time the drug 5-FU has been standard treatment.

Dr Peter Harper, a consultant oncologist at Guy's Hospital, London, says that Zeneca's new palliative drug, Tomudex (raltitrexed), requires an intravenous injection every three weeks and is therefore more compatible with a normal lifestyle than recurrent courses of 5-FU, which involve hospital visits either five days a month or two days a fortnight.



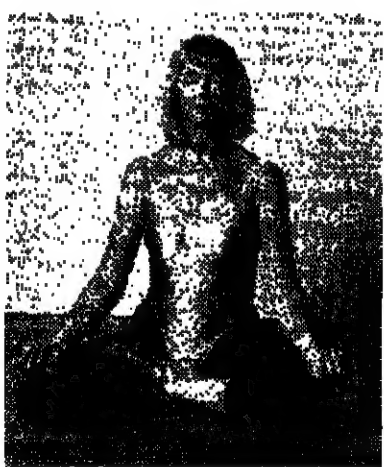
DR THOMAS STUTTAFFORD

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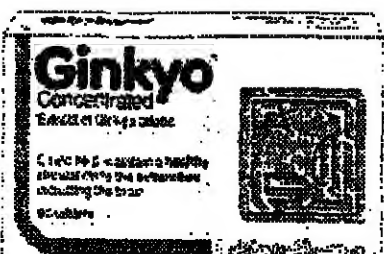


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Saddam role in killing of sons-in-law emerges

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

A MONTH after the Baghdad shoot-out that killed two former sons-in-law of President Saddam Hussein, the full story of their murder is beginning to seep out to the West.

Like some medieval blood feud, it reveals a battle more violent, more grisly and more closely directed by Saddam and his two sons than so far admitted by the Iraqis.

The walled villa where Hussein Kamel Hassan, the former head of Iraqi intelligence, and his brother sought shelter after their quixotic return from Jordan was surrounded at dawn by Iraqi security forces, who trained a formidable array of troops and weapons on the defectors. By nightfall, the house had been reduced to rubble, and the defectors and other family members were dead.

Details of the gun battle were gathered by one of the few Western journalists allowed to visit Iraq since the murders. Jack Redden of Reuters reported after reaching Amman from Baghdad that no foreigners have been allowed to visit the city's Saydiya district and access is difficult even for Iraqis.

The various accounts of the battle on February 23 all point to a protracted and well-

planned far higher, with about ten members of the family killed, including two sisters and at least one sister's child. King Hussein of Jordan, who offered asylum to Hussein Kamel, said recently that the defector's children — Saddam's own grandchildren — were probably also killed on Saddam's orders.

Several accounts said Hussein Kamel's body was dragged on to the street. Some reports say Saddam's son Uday arrived to kick and spit at his old enemy. Mr Redden reported. A feud between the two men was believed to be the main reason for Hussein Kamel's defection, triggered by a row over a sports car owned by Uday.

Evidence of a family vendetta has brought comparisons with ancient blood feuds. Iraqi security forces are usually drawn from Saddam's relatives, to ensure their loyalty, and the force attacking Hussein Kamel was headed by Qusay, Saddam's second son. He joined his older brother at the head of a funeral procession held afterwards for two men from the security force who were killed in the shoot-out.

The former intelligence chief, held responsible for some of Saddam's most bloody repression in the Shia south, was hated by most Iraqis, and few in Baghdad appeared to mourn his death. He was apparently ready for a showdown. Separated from Saddam's daughter on arrival from Jordan, and then divorced, he fled to his sister's house and stocked up with weapons.

Mr Redden said the key question now in Baghdad was whether the killings had ended in a society where revenge is an obligation. In ancient times such feuds cost societies dear in lost men and spilled blood. But most Iraqis today are worried that evidence of Saddam's brutality will delay any easing of United Nations sanctions. Yesterday saw the opening of the second round of talks between the UN secretariat and Iraq on the limited sale of oil for food.

Inspectors blocked: For the second time in four days Iraq yesterday blocked UN weapons inspectors from checking a site, this time in a desert area near Baghdad. The Iraqi Army barred a convoy of vehicles carrying the same inspectors who were prevented from entering a ministry building in Baghdad late on Friday. (Reuters)



Saddam: must have approved the murders.

organised military operation. According to Mr Redden, diplomats believe it must have had the approval of Saddam. The battle began with light weapons, but heavy machine-guns were soon used, and eventually anti-tank rockets were fired into the building. Nearby houses suffered considerable damage. Mr Redden learnt from Iraqi and diplomatic sources.

The Iraqis announced afterwards that four people were killed: Hussein Kamel and his brother Dadda, another brother and their father. But sources in Baghdad put the



A blindfolded Palestinian, held during a raid in the West Bank yesterday, is guarded by an Israeli soldier

Arafat's police arrest Hamas leader

Jerusalem: Palestinian police have arrested a political leader of the Hamas Islamic extremist group and three more senior members of the organisation's military wing (Ross Dunn writes).

Sayed Abu Musameh, who took over the political leadership of Hamas in Gaza and the West Bank in 1989, is now being held in custody as part of

Palestinian efforts against the group. His detention represents a significant hardening of the PLO's attitude to Hamas, since he was seen as a pragmatist willing to engage in negotiations. The latest arrests prompted Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, to praise Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader and chairman of the Palestinian Authority, for the

crackdown against Hamas. "There are really six persons who are running the show," Mr Peres said. "He [Arafat] has arrested three, and we expect him to arrest the other three who are still at large." The man likely to be at the top of the list is Muhammad al-Deif, the suspected mastermind of recent suicide bombings in Israel.

Assad spurns Sinai summit

By MICHAEL BINYON

PRESIDENT ASSAD of Syria will not attend the international anti-terrorism summit in Egypt tomorrow, according to President Mubarak, the host.

He refused to give reasons for the Syrian leader's refusal to join President Clinton, John Major and other international leaders in the Sinai town of Sharm el Sheikh. But it is clear that Mr Assad is unwilling to risk meeting Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, before talks are concluded on ending the state of war between Israel and Syria.

Mr Assad is also unwilling now to take the kind of tough political action against terrorist groups the summit is sure to demand. Damascus offers hospitality to ten rejectionist Palestinian and Islamic groups, including Hamas.

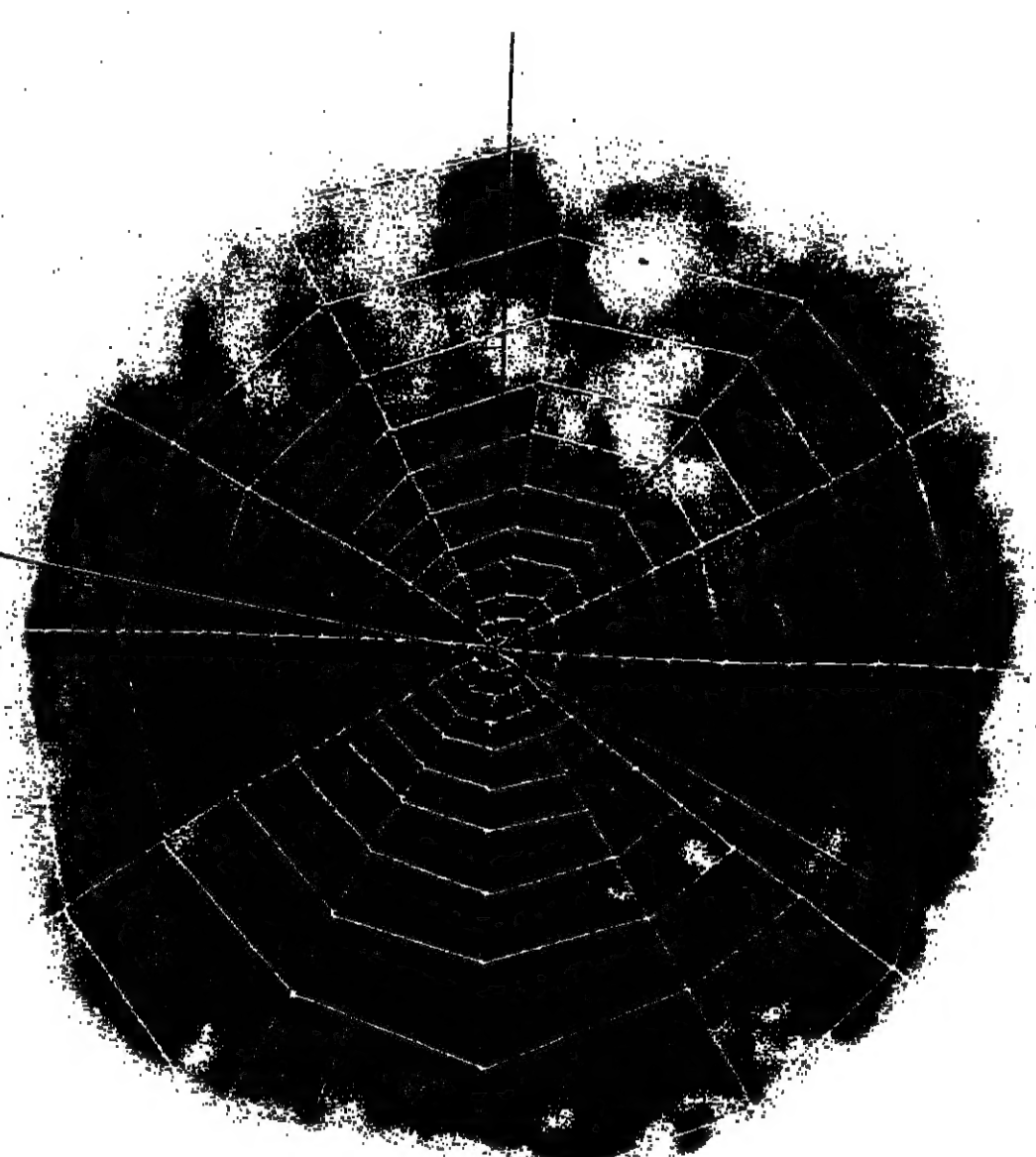
The Syrian leader's refusal to attend undermines plans to banish terrorism from the region. Jordan and Egypt have promised full co-operation, but Syria and Lebanon remain terrorist havens.

Mr Assad will pay a price for not attending. America will not now look favourably on requests to remove Syria from the list of nations sponsoring

terrorism, and Europe will react coolly to Damascus's hopes for closer links. The Israelis may now be less willing to consider a full pull-out from the Golan Heights. Mr Major will tell the summit of vigorous British efforts to curb the use of London as a haven for Islamic radicals.

Madrid: The Spanish paper, *El Pais*, revealed yesterday that Spain held four months of secret talks with Iran last year to get it to end the death sentence against Salman Rushdie and support for Hamas, but Tehran was intractable (Edward Owen writes). Javier Solana, then Foreign Minister, conducted the talks during Spain's presidency of the European Union. He told Tehran that only a written declaration that the fatwa would be lifted would allow relations to improve.

But Tehran wanted the EU to "give the necessary co-operation for Iran to acquire nuclear technology for peaceful purposes". Ali Akbar Velayati, the Foreign Minister, said that, in exchange, Iran was disposed to "initiate serious co-operation against terrorism".



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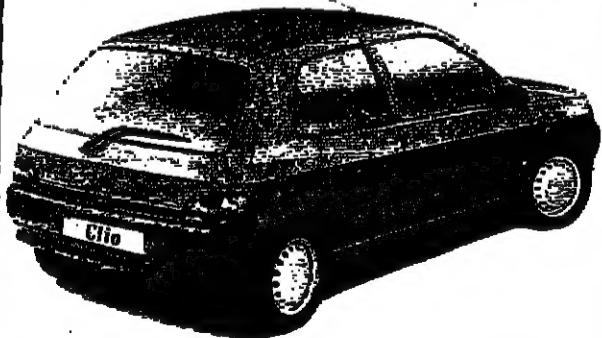
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All-rounder's third century of World Cup secures semi-final date with West Indies

Waugh takes giant leap for Australia

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN MADRAS

MADRAS (New Zealand won
toss): Australia beat New Zealand
by six wickets

IT REQUIRED an innings of sublime authority to keep Australia in the World Cup yesterday and, with a casual inevitability, Mark Waugh provided it. Waugh bestrode this tournament, a colossus amid the mere giants of batsmanship, and the latest recital of his primacy contrived to shrink a target of 287 from formidable to little more than routine. Even on a flawless pitch, this was remarkably fine batting.

Waugh subdued a packed Chepauk crowd that sided

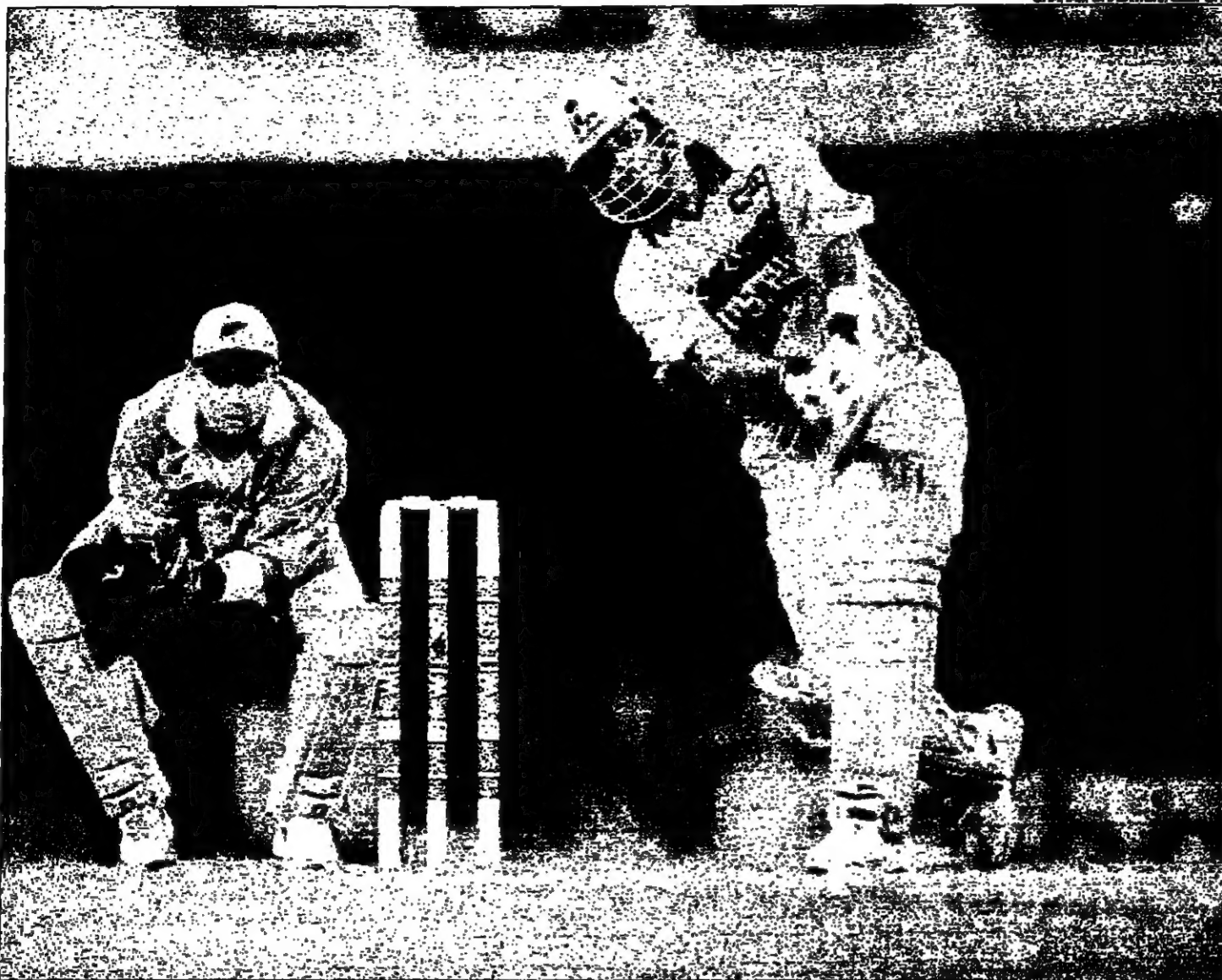


Semi-finals
Tomorrow (all times GMT): Sri Lanka v India, Calcutta (09.00); Mar 14: West Indies v Australia, Chennai (09.00).
Final
Mar 17: Lahore (09.30)

unambiguously with New Zealand. His 110 from 113 balls was his third century of the competition, a unique achievement, and with a possible two games left, it would be a brave man who bet against him making five. He played here with no sense of haste, despite the size of the task, and so contagious was his composure that Australia sauntered to victory with 13 balls to spare.

The cup favourites, having proceeded to the knockout stage via a false start and a couple of short cuts, will now meet West Indies, the surprise conquerors of South Africa, in the second semi-final at Chanderigarh on Thursday. India and Sri Lanka meet in the first tie in Calcutta tomorrow.

Pity poor New Zealand. Or, more particularly, pity their brave, unavailing hero. When the top table at this cricketing banquet was being considered, Christopher Zinzan Harris did not merit a mention. No form, no style, no chance. But the improbable Harris



Mark Waugh, left, launches another controlled assault on the New Zealand bowling in his innings of 110, an effort which counteracted the impact of the century recorded earlier by Harris, right



threatened, for a time, to evict the most glamorous guests of all before the tournament's main course.

Harris made a minor stir in the last World Cup with his swing bowling but little had been heard of him since. His recent batting record of 68 runs in eight one-day innings against Australia did not inspire confidence when he entered the fray at No 5, with New Zealand 44 for three.

Although he frequently appears to be only an ordinary cricketer, Harris does not suffer from a faint heart.

Stricken with cramp, soaking with perspiration, he

made an extraordinary 130, including four sixes, to give his team a position they had scarcely dared to believe possible.

Harris was the real man of the match, not least for his later bowling, which was milder in the extreme. It was an unsentimental adjudicator who gave the award to Waugh.

A restless, engaging personality, Harris once enlivened a boring evening on a youth hour by leaping from one tower block roof to another. These days, he is identified by the red sports car he drives around Christchurch with great vigour, and, of course, by the name Zinzan, shared by his father, a New Zealand cricketer of three decades ago, and by the All Black rugby

player, Zinzan Brooke, who is a distant relative.

A significant part of his two hours of glory was shared with Lee Germon. There have been few more anonymous international captains in recent years, but Germon's credentials were obvious here. He leads by example. Once more promoting himself to No 3, considered a dubious move by some of his team, he justified such self-belief with an assertive 89. With Harris's long arms swinging through the line, their stand was worth 168 in only 27 overs, thrillingly positive batting within the new one-day philosophy (which escapes England) of favouring runs on the board over wickets in hand.

The courage of such cricket was that it was born of

desperation. New Zealand had started appallingly, wasting the advantage of the toss. Nathan Astle, who made the first century of this World Cup, against England almost five weeks ago, completed a

subsequent sequence of 0, 1, 2, 6 and 1.

Eventually, New Zealand fell short of their optimum, the last 15 overs producing only 74 runs. Australia's professional-ism held up through this

phase, and it was critical that it did, for they could otherwise have been chasing 320. Even Waugh might have had trouble with that.

Without the injured Morrison and Larsen, the New Zealand bowling was threadbare but Dion Nash bowled a precise first spell and the old tactic of giving the new ball to Dipak Patel worked again with the early wicket of Mark Taylor. Waugh was utterly unmoved. First with Ricky Ponting, briefly with the audacious "promoted" Shane Warne (24 from 14 balls), and then decisively with his brother, Steve, he dispelled New Zealand's optimism before they had even begun to enjoy it.

Germon played Nash, his final card, too late. Although

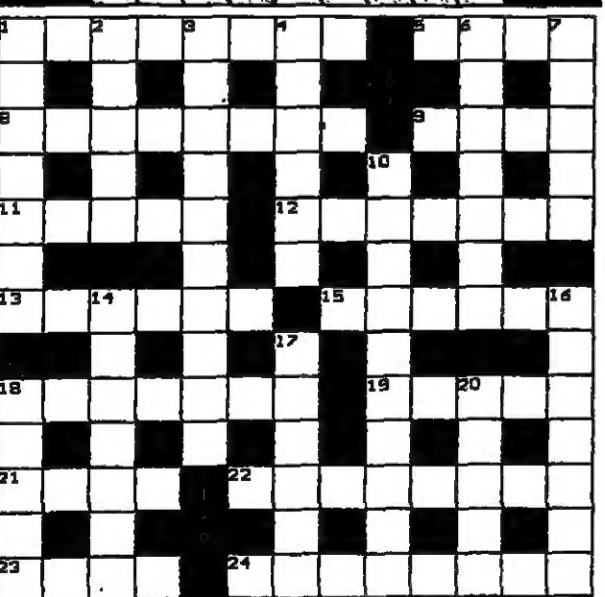
one Waugh, Mark, was out in his first over back in the attack — but not before he had broken. Graham Gooch's record aggregate of 471 runs in a World Cup — the other remained to supervise an ending far less tense than had seemed likely.

Taylor, the Australia captain, acknowledged that their semi-final encounter, against a rejuvenated West Indies, may be tough. "I dare say their confidence is up after beating South Africa, so it should be a good game," he said.

Germon said he believed his team "should have scored another 20 runs" to make Australia's daunting task even more difficult.

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Lara's triumph, page 46

TWO CROSSWORD



No 727

- ACROSS
1 Interfering mischief-maker (8)
5 Skim, as clouds (4)
8 Unclear situation (4,4)
9 Clothes: part of car transmission (4)
11 Spirit from Hell (5)
12 Productive plants: a fall, failure, when come (7)
13 Greek oracle site (6)
15 Admission: course in meal (6)
18 Aptitude: division of university (7)
19 Pass into law (5)
21 Belonging to us (4)
22 Impassioned rant (8)
- DOWN
23 Freshly (4)
24 Body of trad. beliefs (8)
1 Capital of Iraq (7)
2 Energy; vapour (5)
3 One's intellectual invention (10)
4 Soak (6)
6 Type of shoe, of clinging plant (7)
7 Albrecht —, C16 engraver (5)
10 Charlatan (10)
14 Swiss city: cattle-foed (7)
16 Furthest from centre (7)
17 Electricity generator (6)
18 Plant life in general (5)
20 Threatening behaviour (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 726
ACROSS: 5 Breadfaced 8 Ethnic 9 Scoffs 10 Expo
12 Achary 14 Beanbag 15 Peal 17 Looish 18 Excess
DOWN: 1 Obstreperous 2 Keen 3 Ransack 4 Cynosure 6 Tack
7 Effortlessly 11 Pinafire 13 Manhunt 16 Ream 19 Coca

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Delay buys time for Asprilla

By Peter Ball

FAUSTINO ASPRILLA, Newcastle United's £6.7 million Colombia forward, has asked for a personal hearing on charges of misconduct. Asprilla was charged by the Football Association two weeks ago on two counts after clashes with Keith Curle in Newcastle's game against Manchester City at Maine Road on February 24.

Asprilla's delay in deciding to ask for a hearing means that he will be available for Newcastle for at least the next two games on their FA Cup Premier League run-in and, with Easter looming, probably more. It will be a surprise if the FA succeeds in fixing a date for the hearing before Easter.

Even if it does, Asprilla is now available for the games against West Ham United, Arsenal, and Liverpool — provided that Liverpool are not involved in an FA Cup semi-final. It emerged yesterday there could even be a further delay if Asprilla decides to appeal.

"We would normally give a club 14 days to appeal," Clare Tomlinson, an FA spokeswoman, said yesterday. In the most extreme case, Asprilla could be available for virtually all the rest of the season before any suspension came into effect.

However, if Newcastle are using the rules to the full to keep Asprilla playing, they may be facing a serious future pile-up. If Liverpool beat Leeds United in their FA Cup sixth-round replay, Newcastle's visit to Anfield on March 30 will have to be postponed, while cup commitments could also affect the games against

Southampton and Nottingham Forest. After their home defeat by Manchester United opened up the Premiership title race, the possibility of serious fixture congestion is clearly troubling Newcastle. "I don't think it's right that we should go two weeks without a game and then face the prospect of three matches in five or six days," Terry McDermott, the Newcastle assistant manager, said yesterday. "It's scandalous really. We've just got to get on with it, but all this stopping and starting has not done us any favours."

Sunderland, among the pace-setters at the top of the Endleigh Insurance League first division, have been awarded a £2.5 million grant from the Football Trust towards building a new all-seater stadium at Wearmouth Colliery. Sunderland have received permission to build a 34,000-capacity stadium to replace Roker Park, their present ground, but hope to increase that to 40,000.



Asprilla: charged

Old Trafford to host FA Cup semi-final

By Our Sports Staff

OLD TRAFFORD and either Villa Park or Highbury will stage the FA Cup semi-finals this season, the Football Association announced yesterday. David Davies, the FA director of public affairs, said that the game between Liverpool and Leeds United and Nottingham Forest or Aston Villa would be staged at Old Trafford on Sunday, March 31, with a 4pm kick-off.

Villa Park would be the venue for the other game if Manchester United beat Southampton in their quarter-final tie, which was being played last night. But if Southampton won, they would play at Highbury against the winners of the replay between Wimbledon and Chelsea. That semi-final will kick-off at 1.30pm on the same day.

Last season, the FA announced that semi-finals would not be played at the home grounds of any of the teams left in the last four. Davies, however, said yesterday that the capacities of the grounds had been an important factor in the decisions over venues, as was the fact that both Old Trafford and Villa Park are "key Euro '96 [European championship] grounds".

Davies said: "Old Trafford's new stand is likely to boost the capacity at one of the semi-finals to beyond 50,000 and the FA has awarded one tie to the Premier League's biggest ground. Both semi-finals in the FA Cup will be televised live. Any replays would be staged at the same venues on Wednesday, April 10."

The FA will wait for the report of the fourth official,

Peter Jones, before deciding whether any action is to be taken against Mick Harford, the Wimbledon forward, for his verbal attack on Glenn Hoddle, the Chelsea manager, during the FA Cup quarter-final tie at Stamford Bridge on Saturday.

Harford was angered by a decision by the referee, Graham Poll, to award a free kick for an intentional back pass by Kenny Cunningham. Chelsea scored from the resulting free kick and, although Wimbledon equalised, Harford allegedly swore at Hoddle and gesticulated towards the Chelsea supporters.

Keith Lacy, the safety officer at Stamford Bridge, said Harford had "completely lost his rag", and used "abusive" language. The referee did not see the incident, but it was witnessed by Jones, the reserve official.

Steve Double, an FA spokesman, said: "We are waiting to speak to the relevant officials before we decide whether or not we need to take matters further. At this moment, we simply do not have a view on the incident. Before we can take any position we need to know what happened, and what the officials saw and heard."

Italy's Serie A will be suspended on Sunday because of a strike called by the Italian players' association (AIC). The players say their opinions are being disregarded by the authorities. They want the abolition of transfer fees for players out of contract to be implemented at the end of the season and a limit to the number of players from outside the European Union that a club can field.

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